

The Story
of Gardner-Webb University

Dreaming, Daring, Doing

The Story of Gardner-Webb University

1907-1997

by Lansford Jolley

Published by Gardner-Webb University
Boiling Springs, N.C. 28017

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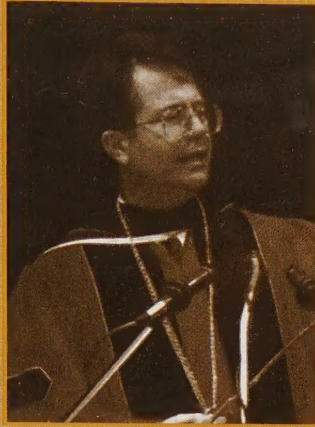
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Foreword



M. Christopher White
President

As we approach our ninetieth year and with our centennial year fast approaching, Gardner-Webb University's alumni, faculty, students, officials and friends share a keen sense of unity and dedication. At the same time, our interest deepens concerning the origins and evolution of the school that has risen from a small struggling boarding high school, founded by area Baptist associations, into one of the major, independent universities in this region.

This history, which will serve as an appropriate means to launch the decade leading to the centennial celebration, not only traces the growth and foundations of the institution now known as Gardner-Webb University, but also interweaves the story of the town of Boiling Springs, the surrounding area, and to some extent the Baptist churches. Beyond that, this volume illuminates the nature and role of private high schools and colleges in the patterns of American education.

Lansford Jolley, the author of this work, is an alumnus and professor emeritus of social science who was acquainted with nine of the ten presidents of Gardner-Webb and who personally witnessed many years of its development. These qualifications enable him to render a readable and intriguing historical account.

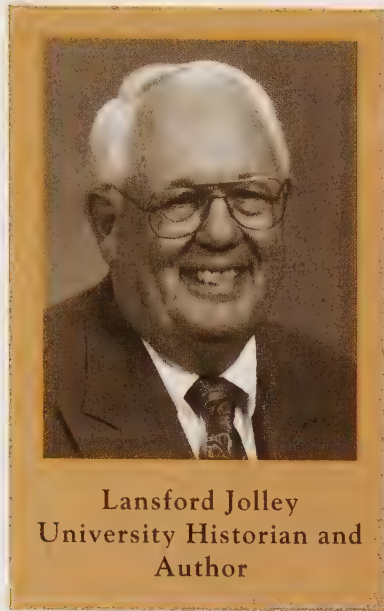
I think you will find it an inspiring story of Christians who had and continue to have the courage and faith for dreaming, daring and doing. I heartily recommend this book to all alumni, friends, supporters and other readers.

M. Christopher White,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "M. Christopher White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President, Gardner-Webb University

Acknowledgements



I am indebted to many persons who have assisted in the development of this history. Several present and former faculty members, as well as present and past administrators and staff, read portions of the manuscript and made suggestions. Prof. Thirlen Osborne, Professor Emeritus of the Gardner-Webb Department of English, Elwood Orr and former vice president of Gardner-Webb Tom McGraw read the entire manuscript. Mrs. Dorothy Washburn Hamrick Edwards, former long-time registrar of the institution and my wife Cothenia, compiled much of the information in the appendix. Margaret King, former secretary at the University, rendered a most valuable service by putting the manuscript on computer. Portions of the manuscript were typed by Kendra Haneline, a Gardner-Webb student. Dot Jackson served as editor. I am also indebted to many persons whom I interviewed and from whom I gathered much material.

As I began working on the book my wife Cothenia became Gardner-Webb archivist. She helped in many ways including typing, proof-reading, and gathering materials for the newly developed archives room from which I drew valuable materials. She also gave me constant encouragement.

I express my appreciation to Dr. Chris White, president, for giving me the opportunity to write the history of Gardner-Webb.

Lansford Jolley
Lansford Jolley
University Historian

Introduction



To a first-time visitor on campus Gardner-Webb will likely seem a securely-rooted place, active but serene in its years as though it has been just as it is, on this spot always.

In fact the story of this institution is a journey, through birth and trial and rebirth, travail and triumph, growth and constant change.

Professor Jolley will tell the story of the background to the founding of the school and will trace its development from a crossroads high school opening its doors in 1907 to the present university of 1997.

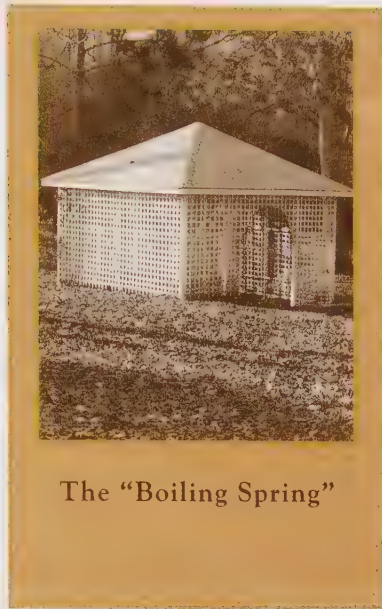
The Gardner-Webb story is an amazing story. To move from a high school supported by two Baptist

groups - the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Associations - to the university of today is the story of faith, diligence, perseverance, and commitment by many Christian people over the past ninety years.

The Baptists who founded the school believed that Christian education was vital to the church and to the state of North Carolina, the nation, and the world.

Its founders believed in undergirding the best in academic teaching with the steadfast base of Christian morality. Knowledge without perimeters of right and wrong was, in their vision, a dangerous thing. Its leaders maintain this principle today.

FOUNDING OF THE SCHOOL



The "Boiling Spring"

On a warm spring morning in 1907, the date of which seems to have been lost in the excitement, a solemn procession of school children moved down the dirt Main Street of Boiling Springs, NC. Flanked by watchful teachers, the motley ranks marched two abreast, a few in step with the rap-tap-tapping of a solitary small drummer.

The elementary school parade passed by such clumps of vibrantly greening and blooming trees as survived a century and more of expanding rich pastures, fields plowed for corn and land that would soon sprout again luxuriant stands of cotton. It halted on the lawn of the old Boiling Springs Baptist Church.

There, as F.B. Dedmond recorded in his Gardner-Webb history *Lengthened Shadows*, the marchers were to take part in a ground-breaking. Doubtless some ventured thoughts of escape from this ceremonial duty, of slipping off to play in the community's big spring that bubbled enticingly nearby. But far too big a crowd was watching.

First there were the formal greetings, oratory, long and earnest prayers. Then Reuben Greene, the oldest citizen in Boiling Springs, took up the shovel, plunged it into the red clay, where soon would stand the new Boiling Springs Baptist High School, and threw out the first broken clods. Now, a privileged few from the young brigade were summoned in turn to dig for posterity.

Fast-forward now nearly ninety years, to another procession, of sorts, passing this same site. On June 1, 1996, as thousands lined the waysides, a rushing stream of bicycles and their intense Olympian riders hurtled through the town of Boiling Springs and the Cleveland County countryside.

For three months the school - now Gardner-Webb University - and local citizens had made ready, planting, painting and beautifying for this women's Olympic trials event. In its dazzling flash through the

neighborhoods and pockets of commerce, though the verdant rural lands, soaring up and over and around the low green hills backdropped by distant mountains, the U.S. Olympic Cycling Road Race would draw an international spotlight to its hosts, the town of Boiling Springs and its central institution, that little Baptist high school that

had grown into Gardner-Webb University.

Between these two landmark events, oceans of historic waters flowed under the bridges of this school and town.

The school, which is four years older than the incorporated town of Boiling Springs, was born of a need and a strong belief in Christian education. The Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Baptist Associations, firmly established in the western Piedmont of North Carolina, joined their labors and dreams to found a Christian high school. They wanted to build a school where young people could have the best possible educational advantages under distinctive Christian influence.

In every age, the Christian church has sought out its youth and trained them to become leaders in the next generation. With the early European settlers Christian education came to America, where it probably found its fullest expression. The churches strongest in a given region of the New World, as were the Baptists and Methodists in western North Carolina, assumed the responsibility for education. Thus the history of Gardner-Webb and other Baptist colleges is right in line with America's strongest traditions. Baptist work in Cleveland County began with the formation of Sandy Run Baptist Church at Mooresboro about 1771. This church joined with churches in Rutherford County to form the Sandy Run Association. The Kings Mountain Baptist Association was organized at Double Springs Baptist Church in 1851 including churches in Cleveland County.

Before the twentieth century, development of schools in North Carolina had been slow. Home tutoring and private and church academies provided such education as was available; the academies sometimes offered college preparatory courses. But young people of the villages and rural areas usually had little or no access to such institutions. The state did not open public high schools until later in the century, consequently, unless the Baptists or other denominations provided high school education, the seventh-grade row in the one-room school was the end of the line for even the brightest. Most young people would not receive schooling at the secondary level.

Seven Baptist colleges or universities eventually developed in North Carolina. Wake Forest was the first, founded in 1834. The high school which opened its doors at Boiling Springs in 1907 evolved into Gardner-Webb University, the youngest of the Baptist colleges.

Founders of North Carolina's Baptist schools preferred that they be placed in small towns, not in cities where the young people would encounter more temptations. Thus, Boiling Springs along with other small towns such as Mars Hill, Wingate, Buies Creek, and Murfreesboro became the sites of the Baptist schools. Wake Forest, before its move to Winston-Salem, was originally in the small town of Wake Forest, the "forest" of Wake County.

The history of Gardner-Webb, while unique, fits into a larger picture of North Carolina Baptists and their attempts to educate their youth, and the history of North Carolina and the Boiling Springs area.

Events in North Carolina at the turn of the century probably set the stage for greater interest in education. Charles B. Aycock became governor in 1901 and advocated a "gospel of education." This new emphasis by the state government could only encourage the growing and developing interest of Baptists, who were interested in a "Four-R" curriculum - the fourth "R" being religious values.

At the same time, the Baptists were thinking much about the proper education of women. This led to the school which opened as the Baptist Female University in Raleigh in 1899, later named Meredith College in honor of Thomas Meredith, the first editor of the *Biblical Recorder* and a proponent of higher education for women. For many years, there had been discussion in the Kings Mountain Association of the need for a Baptist high school or high schools in the area which would train Christian young people.

In 1900 the Kings Mountain Association met at Double Springs Baptist Church. Its Correspondence Committee reported that the time had now come for the education of all people as well as the ministers, and recommended the building of more Baptist schools. The committee pled for Baptists to give our children Christian knowledge. They asked, "Whom shall we leave here to advocate and defend our faith, the principles we hold so dear, as against the attacks of those who reject them, if we fail to teach our children?"

Reaction was about as swift as in bureaucracies today. Three years later, an investigating committee was assigned by the Association to study the feasibility of establishing a Baptist high school somewhere in the area. In 1904 the committee gave a positive report, recommending that a Board of Trustees be appointed at once. On October 10, 1904 the trustees met at the First Baptist Church in Shelby. That first board included W.W. Washburn, L.S. Jenkins, G.W. Kendrick, J.M. Wilson, Rev. J.V. Devenny, E.C. Borders, J.H. Quinn, A.T. Mull, G.H. Logan, A.C. Irvin, Carme Elam, E.B. Hamrick, N.B. Kendrick, L.S. Hamrick and D.F. Putnam. Rev. Devenny was elected chairman and Carme Elam was elected secretary.

There was considerable interest as to where the proposed school should be located. According to Dedmond, in *Lengthened Shadows* (p. 21), the Board of Trustees scheduled a meeting for May 8, 1905 to receive propositions from communities seeking the school.

Two days before the meeting, Boiling Springs Baptist Church called a conference, at which the congregation voted to offer their old church house and five acres of land for the school, with the understanding that if the school should close, the land would be given back to the church. In addition to the land and the building, the *Cleveland Star* reported on July 12, 1905 that Boiling Springs Baptist Church voted to give \$2,700.00 to begin the school.

There was competition. Piedmont High School at Lawndale had been operating for a number of years. Mayor John Schenck offered to give land, the buildings, and the facilities of that institution if the Baptists would establish the school at Lawndale.

On July 10, 1905 at a meeting at the First Baptist Church of Shelby, Boiling Springs was chosen as the site of the new school. According to O.P. Hamrick in *Born at the Crossroads* (p. 16), the main selling points, in addition to the land, building, and money,

Founding of the School

may have been that it was located near the border of the two associations, Kings Mountain and Sandy Run, and that "the area had always been interested in education and had some progressive, forward-looking citizens who were determined to do all in their power to secure the institution."

Mr. Hamrick also believed that in addition to these attributes, the proposition that finally brought about the decision was that the committee also decided they wanted the new school built of brick. And, it seemed that brick was more easily available in the Boiling Springs area than in other places that had shown an interest in the high school.

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the new school was held at Kings Mountain on September 21, 1905 in connection with the annual session of the Kings Mountain Association. At this session, a resolution was unanimously approved inviting the Sandy Run Association to join the Kings Mountain Association in erecting and operating the school.

Sandy Run agreed, and provided their own, additional Board of Trustees, including W.A. Martin, Dr. T.G. Hamrick, T.M. Holland, A.S. Harrill, D.M. Harrill, Dr. T.B. Lovelace, J.H. Hamrick, J.J. Edwards, Rev. J.M. Hamrick, and J.C. Bridges. The two boards held their first joint meeting at Boiling Springs on October 27, 1905 and decided that the school should be known as Boiling Springs High School.

A newspaper article in 1956, written by John Roberts, Director of Public Relations at the college, described the Boiling Springs area as a center for learning thirty-five years before the establishment of the Baptist school. Two early schools in the area were particularly important, the Bridges School and the Holland School.

The Bridges Academy, a large one-room frame school house, opened in Boiling Springs around 1872. It stood near what became the site of the former public school on South Main Street. The schoolmaster was Burt Bridges, a self-made scholar who taught for over fifty years in Cleveland and Rutherford counties. Prof. Bridges headed the Boiling Springs school for approximately thirteen years, leaving in the mid 1880s to teach in Mooresboro. He returned to Boiling Springs to teach in 1899. Based on former student recollections, John Roberts described Burt Bridges as a "tall, erect, muscular man with heavy black hair shot with gray." Former students also described him as "handsome, hot tempered, brilliant, and quick with the whip." He was

also a dentist and, like many of those who taught, had previously practiced another profession or was bi-vocational. At the time Prof. Bridges was a dentist, the only pain-killer available was a fruit jar of corn liquor.

Among the graduates of the Bridges Academy were Charles Blanton, bank president; J.Y. Hamrick, state senator around 1900; E.B. Hamrick, pioneer Boiling Springs merchant; and O.P. Hamrick, teacher in the Baptist high school and later principal of the Boiling Springs state public school. All these graduates and members of their families have been staunch supporters of the high school and the college-university throughout its history.

Another important school in the Boiling Springs area was the Holland School, which will be discussed later in connection with "Miracle Farm Day" in 1950.

At a meeting at Boiling Springs in 1905, the school trustees appointed a committee composed of J.H. Quinn, J.F. Alexander and Carme Elam to secure a charter. The charter was developed and accepted on December 2, 1905.

Thus, at the Sandy Run Association meeting in 1906, the messengers were informed that Boiling Springs High School, Incorporated, had been selected as the legal title of the proposed institution and a liberal charter had been secured from the state and placed on record in the office of the Clerk of Court at Shelby. Deeds had been secured and recorded to 8.6 acres of land (the original five had somehow grown) at Boiling Springs, including the old church building.

The relationship between the College and the town of Boiling Springs, the people of Cleveland County and surrounding counties, the associations, and the Baptist State Convention have been close since the beginning. Boiling Springs as a community, including two churches and various enterprises, preceded the high school. Boiling Springs Baptist Church was organized in 1847, and Green Bethel Baptist Church in 1867. The town of Boiling Springs was incorporated in 1911 at the request of the high school officials. The town derived its name from the springs, for there were earlier two observable springs that existed on what is now the west side of the campus. In an early period, the large bubbling springs erupted from a fresh underground source; at one time, the water measuring four or five feet across and bubbling six to eight inches above the surface attracted thirsty folks from miles around. The springs

were a community gathering place and served as the location for elections, campaign speeches, payment of taxes, voter registration, birthday parties, and family reunions.

The springs in an earlier period, including the high school era, were a favorite gathering place for students. Many a romance has blossomed or died at the springs. The springs were also a source of water for the high school when it began operation in 1907. Often people long in the Boiling Springs area have referred to this multi-faceted attraction as the Church Springs; the church once owned the springs and the surrounding property.

Now there is a memorial park around the springs named in honor of three Gardner-Webb professors who were killed in an automobile accident on January 27, 1983 while returning from Newton, where they were teaching an evening class for Gardner-Webb. Those who died were Dr. Mike Harrelson, science; Dr. James P. Henson, psychology, and Dr. John Rast, religion. The spring today provides water for Hollifield Lake.

Many of the first settlers in the Boiling Springs area were of Scotch-Irish and German descent and migrated from Lancaster County in Pennsylvania, where they had lived for two generations. The English soon joined them. Among those first families were the Hamricks, Greenes, McSwains, and Washburns. It was once said that if one met another person around the town of Boiling Springs that he did not know, he should say, "Good morning, Mr. Hamrick." If no response, say, "Good morning, Mr. Greene." If he still did not answer, forget it, because he did not live around here anyway.

This assumption would no longer hold true because of the influx of new "settlers," largely in the past couple of decades, many of whom have come here because of the school. New subdivisions have swelled the area population, with 354 new homes being built between 1988 and 1996. In 1911 when the town was first incorporated, there were about 75 houses and 250 people. The population at the 1990 census was 2,445. A recent study found that there are approximately 10,000 people living within five miles of the University.

The first general store in Boiling Springs and Cleveland County was opened in 1875 by C.J. Hamrick. The store sold a variety of items which included coffins, feed, seed, fertilizers, groceries, hardware, dry goods, farm equipment, and many other



Original McSwain's store near campus.
(Picture provided by G.T. McSwain)

items. Today Hamrick's descendants run the store, a John Deere dealership, in an adjacent building.

In 1926 B.G. Beason saw a need and founded the Cleveland Sandwich Company in downtown Boiling Springs. His was an early "fast-food" enterprise which became a pillar of local commerce. Employees made and wrapped sandwiches; trucks carried them often many miles to industries and stores along the by-ways. In the 1940s, the Snack Shop opened as a restaurant on South Main Street. It has been over the years an eating place and a place to socialize for college people - faculty, students, and friends - as well as people living in the Boiling Springs area.

G. T. McSwain's Store has been operated by father and son in Boiling Springs since 1940. McSwain's Store, operated by G. T. McSwain, Sr., stood on the approximate site of the reflecting pool in front of the Webb Hall. In 1965 McSwain's Supermarket and Furniture Store opened at its present site on East College Avenue. For some time the first building on campus had been dreamed of and planned for by Baptists in this area. N.B. Kendrick, an original trustee of the school, and his brothers were given a contract to make the bricks for the main building, the first permanent building on campus. (This building was later named in honor of Professor J.D. Huggins and Miss Etta Curtis whose leadership and

Founding of the School

influence were important in the development and growth of the school.) Some of the bricks were made, according to residents of Boiling Springs, on the Pruette property behind the present Boiling Springs Baptist Church on South Main Street; others were evidently brought in by rail to Lattimore and Cliffside and transported on to Boiling Springs by wagon.

In a *Shelby Daily Star* article, John F. Moore recalled that with the help of his then-small twin sons, he hauled bricks from Cliffside until the tiny hands of the boys bled from handling so many bricks. Each of these sons, Dr. Vick Moore and Dr. D.F. Moore, became prominent Cleveland County physicians and served local communities for many years.

The school, beginning with that first construction, has at times experienced financial difficulties. The contractor for the first building had agreed to build it for \$6,000. The committee was to furnish all material, and the contractor was to perform all necessary labor. On May 25, 1907 work on the building was stopped for lack of sufficient funds to buy material and meet the payroll of the contractor. The trustees suggested that members of the board sign a joint note for \$3,000 to supplement money being collected, in order that a roof might be put on the building. The loan was negotiated and work began again. (Dedmond, p. 26)

Gardner-Webb will be eternally indebted to the supporting Baptist associations, which owned and operated the school until it became associated with the Baptist State Convention in 1947. That the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Associations, joined by the Gaston Association in 1920 and the Green River Association in 1937, could with little or no aid from other sources found and operate a high school and later a junior college attests to the faith that these associations and their churches had in Christian education and in the Boiling Springs School.

Often the trustees and supporting associations struggled and prayed that the school they had founded would be strong academically in a Christian environment. At times the trustees found it impossible to contract with teachers for salary. In a 1909 report, Board Chairman J.H. Quinn noted that the board did not feel that it was in a position to assume the financial responsibility of the teaching force with the building indebtedness resting on the board. Hence the principals were to assume the entire financial responsibility of the school and employ their own teachers under the approval of the board. Several years later this was changed with the Board

of Trustees assuming control of and responsibility for the finances of the school.

With construction underway, J.D. Huggins was hired as field agent until the school could be opened. This was the first position held by this man who was to serve as principal beginning in 1907. For the next twenty-five years, Mr. Huggins was to be closely associated with the high school and the junior college for which he toiled and prayed. Mr. Huggins eventually served as principal, co-principal, assistant principal and teacher at the high school and later taught at the college and served as dean of the college.

John F. Moore of Boiling Springs, an original trustee, was appointed to supervise the erection of the first building, so that the chairman of the building committee, J.V. Devenny, might have time to handle his other duties as financial agent. (Dedmond, p. 26.) Dan W. Moore, Jr., grandson of John Moore, recently explained that the workmen used no square; if John Moore could not tell it was not square, neither could others.

At the meeting of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association of 1907, the Committee on Education composed of B.T. Falls, R.L. Weathers, and J.Y. Hamrick made this strong plea for the support of the school at Boiling Springs:

Our secondary schools which have done such a great work for the denomination and for civilization are steadily growing in size and usefulness. We heartily commend them to all parents who desire to obtain for their children a Christian education. We further recommend and urge that it is the duty of every Baptist in this association to lend to these students their moral support and contribute to their financial aid. We commend especially the maintenance of Boiling Springs High School, which is designed to meet the demands for better high school facilities. Your committee believes that there is a great work for the school to do and it should have an important place in our denominational work. It is designed to, and if supported, will do more to strengthen the Baptist causes in the Association than any other means now before us. To this end then let this Association pledge its united and most loyal support to the erection and maintenance of this school.

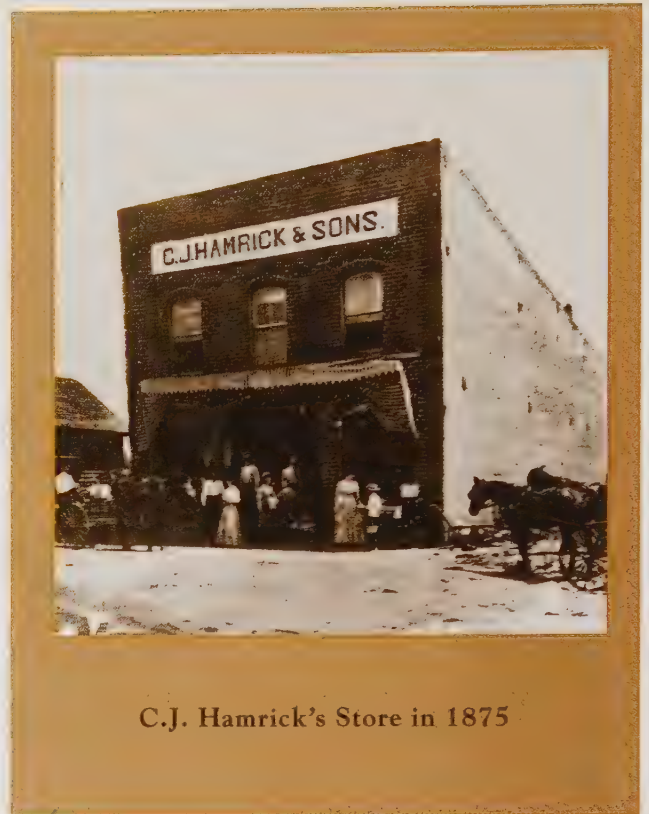
(Dedmond.p.26)

Two cornerstones for the first main building, one for each of the two sponsoring associations, were laid on June 29, 1907. (Dedmond, p. 27). Dedmond reports that on the platform that day were Rev. J.V. Devenny, J.Y. Hamrick, Prof. J.D. Huggins, J.H. Quinn, and Dr. Edwin McNeill Poteat, President of Furman University and speaker for the occasion. Rev. J. M. Hamrick, a trustee and later principal of the high school, led in the closing prayer at the laying of the cornerstones.

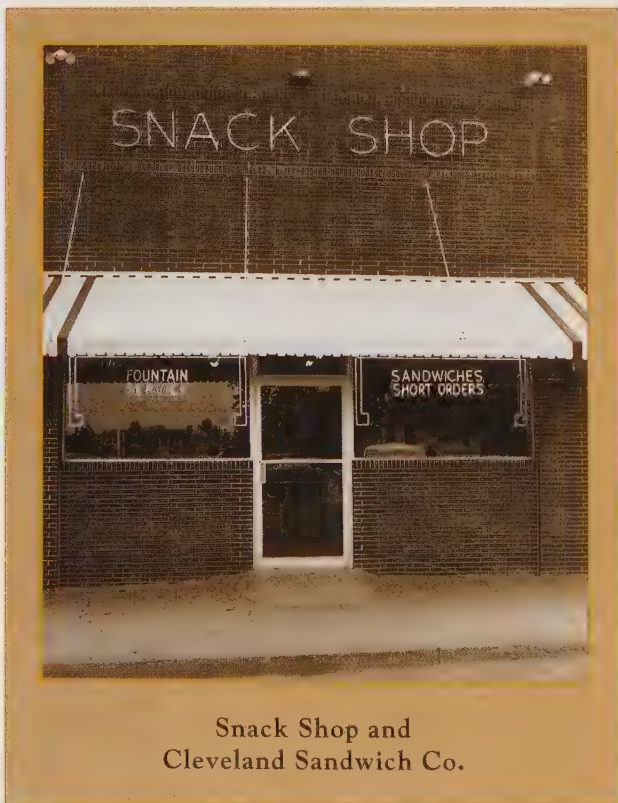
At a meeting of the Board on July 25, 1907, J.D. Huggins, Sr., was chosen principal of the school and was authorized to select a faculty. (Dedmond, p. 28). J.C. Washburn recalled for the Golden Anniversary of Gardner-Webb College in 1957 that G.H. Logan, a trustee, had the honor of contacting Professor Huggins to become principal of the school.

Mr. Huggins, who was thirty-two years of age at the time he was chosen principal, lived in York County, SC. He was born in Kershaw County, near Camden, SC. and had been brought up on a farm. When he was about fifteen, one of his legs was injured, and for nearly a year he had to remain in bed.

According to Mr. Huggins' daughter, Rachel Hedrick of Boiling Springs, he came to realize that he would have to get an education because he would not be able to do manual labor for a living. He



C.J. Hamrick's Store in 1875



**Snack Shop and
Cleveland Sandwich Co.**

finished high school at Welsh Neck High School which later became Coker College. He graduated from Catawba College in 1899. While there, he worked, among other jobs, as purchasing agent for the dining room. After graduating, he became principal of Bethany High School in South Carolina and stayed four years. Bessie Atkins came to Bethany to teach after graduating from Erskine College. The two met, courted, and married on December 27, 1906.

After Mrs. Huggins moved to Boiling Springs, Mr. Huggins and his bride lived for several years in a big room in the Main Building. In the meantime, Mr. Huggins designed and in 1911 built the white two-story frame house in which they lived for many years. The Hugginses reared their children in this house, on the approximate site of the present Dover Memorial Library. After Mrs. Huggins' death in 1962, their son, J.D. Huggins, Jr., and his wife Agnes and children lived in the house until the property was sold to the college in 1964.

By the fall of 1907, teachers had been hired, and Prof. Huggins was the principal of a school that had at first existed only in the minds and hearts of persons in the Baptist churches in this area. Now this dream was about to be fulfilled with the opening of the high school in Boiling Springs.

The High School Years

Boiling Springs High School began classes in October 1907, the answer to prayers of parents who wanted a solid Christian education for their children. Such an opportunity had been rare in preceding generations; many of those who entered the new school were the first ever in their families to attend high school.

The Main Building was not completed. Consequently, Prof. Huggins and his staff were forced to improvise. Students and faculty were placed in various homes in the community; thus in some respects town and gown became one in the early high school period. When he first came to Boiling Springs, for a short time Mr. Huggins had no family with him, so he stayed in different homes in the community. Fern Padgett and her sister Pamela Pruette remember that in the mornings when Mr. Huggins hitched the horse to the buggy to come to the campus, the horse often would not move, so their father, R. Lander Pruette, would hold hay in front of the horse to get it started. It seems that after the horse made a few steps, he no longer needed coaxing.

The first faculty was small, consisting of Prof. Huggins as principal, Lula McGee as lady principal, and Miss Alma Smith, Miss Annie Hamrick and Miss Mary Clark Pitts comprising the remainder of the faculty.

Students and faculty met for the first time in an old public school building, a wooden building of only three rooms. The public elementary school at that time was in session only three months during the winter, so Boiling Springs High School was allowed to use the three rooms until January 1908. Classes were also held in the empty Boiling Springs Baptist Church building near the spring. By this time, a new church had been built and was being used by Boiling Springs Baptist Church. (Dedmond, p. 31.)

By January 1908, the still-unfinished first and second floors in the new Main Building were occupied. It is difficult to realize how large this structure was and how many activities were housed



in this building, which was located on the site of the present Charles I. Dover Campus Center. At various times during the next fifty years, until it burned in 1957, this building provided space for at least the following: classrooms, auditorium, chapel, library, principal's office for the high school, president's office for the college, cafeteria, living quarters

for men and women, literary societies, music room, parlors, and equipment of various types including supplies for the cafeteria, the football team, and society halls.

It was some imposing edifice, this schoolhouse which would one day be called the Huggins-Curtis Building. When the school moved in, there were forty-four dormitory rooms, a chapel, three recitation rooms, two society halls, a music room, two parlors, a dining hall, a kitchen, and two offices for principals. All but the dorm space had to accommodate an influx of local day students, as well as those who lived on campus.

In 1908 J.H. Quinn, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the high school, wrote, "The Board of Trustees is pleased to report the completion of the splendid school building." He congratulated the membership of the Kings Mountain and the Sandy Run Baptist Associations upon having a high school building in their midst that was "equalled by few, if any, and surpassed by none in the state, whether considered from its architectural design or its internal arrangements." The total cost of the building, including material and labor, came to \$24,532.73.

A *Shelby Daily Star* article of January 1956, gave some impressions of that early school as seen through the eyes of Perry Sellers of Shelby, one of the first students to enroll. Mr. Sellers shared memories of the first building and of the road which today runs in front of the Hamrick Hall and the Dover Campus Center. He recalled that the boys lived in one end of the building and the girls occupied the other end. "The school's principal and a heavy padlock served

Chapter 2

to divide the two," he said. Such was a provision for thwarting unseemly behavior.

The bell and bell tower of this building had a significance for both the College and the community. When Boiling Springs was incorporated in 1911, the bell tower atop this building served as the center of the town, with town limits extending out a radius of one mile in each direction. A law was passed in Raleigh at the special request of the school officials to the effect that no tobacco, cigarettes, or alcoholic beverages were allowed to be sold within a mile from the bell tower, meaning these products were not to be sold in Boiling Springs. For many years, this bell was rung manually for the change of classes and the celebration of various events.

One of the most interesting stories involving the bell tower is told by former graduates and included in O. P. Hamrick's book *Born at the Crossroads*. At some point in early history, students took a goat up

into the tower of the main building and tied it to the bell. When the goat moved, the bell bonged. The goat became increasingly alarmed and excited, as did puzzled townsfolk. Mr. Hamrick concluded that while playful acts of this type were sometimes irritating, they never really caused any serious harm. To be sure, the students of the high school period did not have the diversions that modern day students have, and this type of activity was probably to be expected.

Perry Sellers described the building of the road in front of the building, including his role, the role of some other students, and that of a black mule named Katie. This road is still the basic site of the main road through the campus. Mr. Sellers and two other students, Tommy Goode and Jake Ware, laid out the road and dug the ditches on each side, using a twister plow pulled by Katie as their road equipment. Sellers said, "We had to chop down about twenty-five trees and get Katie to pull them out of the way. Then we



Huggins-Curtis Building. First building known as Main Building later renamed Huggins - Curtis

blasted out the stumps and smoothed out the road." The road was paved in 1941 and was named Quinn Circle in memory of J.H. Quinn, an original trustee of the school.

Historians tell us that in studying a civilization, a country, or perhaps an institution, we should, as much as possible, think, feel, and respond to life as people of that period. For many late twentieth century readers, it is probably difficult to envision the physical surroundings of Boiling Springs High School in the early years of the twentieth century. There were no automobiles, so students traveled from home to school in buggies or horse drawn wagons driven by a family member or friend. Automobile parking problems were yet to come, though hitching posts may have been at a premium. Some students evidently traveled by train to Lattimore and were transferred by buggy on to Boiling Springs.

The first airplane flight had occurred at Kitty Hawk, NC in 1903, but commercial flights were far in the future. Students, whether living in the dormitory or at home in the community, studied in a room heated by a wood-burning stove, and lighted by a kerosene lamp. The roads on which they traveled to school were at first dirt roads that were simply made by the tracks of horses and the buggy and wagon wheels over time.

There were no radios or televisions in students' rooms, because these inventions came considerably later. The physical and cultural changes between 1907 and 1997, the years of Gardner-Webb history covered by this book, have been greater than in any other period in American history, and these changes have affected in many ways the development and growth of this high school, college, and university.

The first year was a trying one, because in the middle of the year, at Christmas, the entire student body and faculty had to be removed from homes and housed in the new building that had been partially completed. Janitorial service, fuel, lights, and many other incidental expenses added to the cost of administration and made it extremely difficult for Mr. Huggins to pay all the bills. (O. P. H., p. 43.)

Despite the financial problems, trustee chairman J.H. Quinn in his 1908 report to the Kings Mountain Baptist Association was able to look upon the positive. "Never," he said, "did a school do better work under more adverse circumstances." Classes began in the new building on a Friday in January 1908. Soon after, two literary societies for young men were organized. Three sponsors - J. Y. Hamrick, Rev.

Baylus Cade, the school's first financial agent, and Prof. Huggins - helped the young men in the organization in the writing of the societies' constitutions and by-laws. One group chose the name Athenian and elected C. B. Wilson as its first president. The Rev. Cade selected the name Kalagathian for the other society. Oscar Duncan was elected its first president.

According to Prof. Dedmond, the young women were not to be outdone. With the assistance of Mrs. Bessie A. Huggins, wife of Prof. Huggins, they formed societies of their own, going to great pains for even more impressive names. The first one, the Rhamsaeur Society, was in honor of Minnie Ramseur. At that time, according to Dedmond, Mrs. Ramseur was the largest contributor among women to the school. Another society for young women was organized in the fall of 1908 with Miss Ollie Moore being elected president. This society was named the Kaliergeonian.

Each of these literary societies was assigned a large room or literary hall in the main building. The Kalagathians eventually invited the Kaliergeonian to become their "Sister Society," and the Athenians invited the Rhamsaeur Society to be theirs. So the school had the Athenian-Rhamsaeur and the Kalagathian-Kaliergeonian literary societies. The significance that students in this era attached to literary societies and their debates, readings of essays, orations, and music is an interesting phenomenon of this period in American education.

The two society halls were elaborately decorated, and students took much pride in their societies and society halls. Reports to the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Associations in the high school period often told of students painting the society halls and buying furniture for the rooms. The 1914 report to the Associations announced that the literary societies had equipped each of the two society halls with a handsome piano.

The annual debate which occurred in the spring was the principal meeting of the year for the societies. It was considered one of the highlights of the year for all students. Typically a debate was preceded by a welcoming address from the president of the literary society, a musical number, an oration, and often a reading. All these were given by members of the societies. Two orations delivered in different years were "Ambition and Restlessness" and "America and the League of Nations."

One of the literary society sponsors, Rev. Baylus Cade, in addition to serving the high school in

several capacities, was also the pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church from 1910-1912 and again in 1913-1914. He was reputedly a unique character. It seems he often said exactly what he thought even though his words might possibly be offensive. Once when a heavy snow came, he didn't show up to preach in the local church. He later reportedly told the congregation that when the weather was good, people should have enough sense to go to church and during a blizzard, they should know to stay at home.

The principal of the high school throughout most of its history was Prof. J.D. Huggins. The recollections of Mr. Huggins by former students, fellow-teachers and administrators describe him as a man who was highly intelligent and who had great concern for the welfare of his teachers, students, and all persons with whom he came in contact. Also, Prof. Huggins, as everyone called him, was surely a master psychologist in dealing with students. An account from the early history of the school tells of students putting a buggy on top of one of the buildings. Prof. Huggins knew that he would never get a confession from the students involved, so he used the simple psychology of asking the young men who had nothing to do with putting the buggy on the building to take it down. And promptly, it came down.

Dovie Hopper Jolley, who graduated from Boiling Springs High School in 1914, told of counseling sessions with Mr. Huggins in which he always gave encouragement. Miss Rosina Hamrick of Boiling Springs recalls that Huggins in class would often spend considerable time on matters that pertained to students. The late C.C. Goode recalls various incidents involving Prof. Huggins. One of these incidents he felt caused Huggins to re-injure his leg in coming to Mr. Goode's aid. Mr. Goode was working in a field near the campus, cutting oats with a cradle. He had finished for the day and was going to haul some oats to the barn, using a horse and wagon. The horse became frightened and ran away. Mr. Goode fell, crushed his leg, and was trapped. Mr. Huggins happened to be out where he could see what was happening. Even though he had trouble with one of his legs and used a cane, Prof. Huggins threw the cane away and came to the rescue of Mr. Goode. Modern advertisements for Gardner-Webb University proclaim, "People Who Care." J.D. Huggins exemplified this motto.

At the time of this incident, much of Cleveland County and Boiling Springs was rolling countryside. Mr. Goode lived near the school so the fields in

which he would have been working are today probably part of the Gardner-Webb campus. A number of the fields near the campus that once grew grain, cotton, and other farm products have become football, baseball, and soccer fields for Gardner-Webb athletic teams.

The "People Who Care" concept was carried over into the planning of a curriculum that would meet the needs of students. The regular course of study in the high school covered a six-year period. This was divided into an intermediate course of two years and a high school course, further divided into A.B. and B.S. college preparatory courses of four years. In addition there was the English-scientific course of three years. The A.B. college preparatory course included both Greek and Latin, while the B.S. preparatory course was intended for those who did not plan to attend college. The early catalogs advertised: "a most excellent school of music, a commercial department, and a good primary school run for the benefit of the community."

The course of study for the high school did not change substantially during the high school period. However, no one should feel that because it was a high school and in a somewhat pre-scientific era that the curriculum was not demanding. The curriculum, designed to give a base for classical study as illustrated by requirements of Latin, German, and other languages, also had a practical aspect. Practical courses required for one or more years which probably would not be offered in high schools today included penmanship and expression. Catalogs in the high school era gave reasons for various courses. The first catalog described English classes as "designed to give the pupil a thorough knowledge of his Mother tongue, to enable him to speak and write it correctly, to acquaint him with the productions of the best writers, and to instill a love for literature."

The early high school catalogs also explained the purpose of Christian education: "The formation of character, the cultivation of sound principles and right ideas regarding what is worth attaining in life are esteemed of first importance." The purposes expressed in the high school catalogs and in later junior, senior, and university publications of the institution held common themes. One of these is that education is more than learning facts and gathering information; it also involves knowing that there are morally right and wrong decisions to be made and that this insight is found in the Christian religion. To illustrate, in a much later period, Dr. P.L. Elliott,

The High School Years

president of the College from 1943-1961, remarked that a person who would steal an apple from a freight train could steal the whole railway company, if given an education of knowledge without morality and a sense of right and wrong. This idea has been espoused by other school leaders over the years.

An early catalog of the high school stated that every plan of its faculty was to be subordinated to the one supreme aim of fitting the student to fight the battle of life. Furthermore, "Only such methods will be used as will equip our students with mental and moral strength to cope with poverty and vice to become a factor in God's hands for lifting the world above the want and woe." Another appropriate statement concerning the mission of the school is carved upon the ageless granite arch on campus, "Pro Deo et Humanitate" (for God and Humanity).



J.D. Huggins,
Principal 1907-1908
Assistant Principal
1908-1910
Co-Principal
1910-1914
Principal
1914-1928



J.M. Hamrick
Principal
1910-1911



W.J. Frances
Principal
1911-1914

Not pictured
J.A. Brown
Joint Principal
1908-1910

At the Sandy Run Association meeting in 1910, messengers were reminded of the value of Christian schools with emphasis on the importance of the school at Boiling Springs. One part of the report to the association declared, "If there yet lingers in the mind of any member of either association any doubt as to the wisdom of having established in our midst a Baptist high school under denominational control, the influence already exerted for good and for the glory of the Master by your school ought forever to dispel such doubt."

By modern standards tuition and board in the high school were very low, but income of parents was also very low. In 1908-1909, a first year high school student could attend Boiling Springs High School for \$76.05 for a nine months' term. This included room, board, and tuition. These costs varied from year to year but did not increase tremendously. Some students paid for their tuition with milk, eggs, or other farm products available in a rural society.

The 1914-1915 catalog explained that wood was furnished cut in proper lengths and placed in the dormitory for girls at a charge of \$4.25 for the entire year or 85 cents for each of the winter months beginning on November 1.

Rooms were equipped with all necessary heavy furniture, but boarding students were requested to furnish buckets, dippers, wash basins, towels, soap, sheets, blankets, comb, brush and pillows. In contrast to the many college scholarships available to graduating seniors in modern high schools, Boiling Springs High School graduates and their contemporaries were offered very few. In the first decade of the twentieth century, the percentage of high school students going to college was small. Yet this high school saw many of its graduates go on to college. The first catalog of the high school included the announcement that Wake Forest College offered a scholarship each year to a "male student of Boiling Springs High School who shall make the highest grade in deportment and scholarship." Wake Forest, like many other institutions, did not accept women until a much later date.

By 1911 a Boiling Springs High School student could have been recognized very easily. In the 1911 annual meeting, the Board of Trustees ordered that students be required to wear uniforms; parents were advised that this would make the clothing of their children less expensive. Also it would probably mean that some students would not be better or more poorly dressed than their peers. The decision seems to have

been solicited by the student body. Uniforms for the young ladies consisted of a white suit and a navy suit which were purchased for \$10.00 each. The young men's uniforms were navy blue and cost \$16.00. New ones were ordered each year.

The administration of the high school consisted of the following persons:

Administrative Staff 1907-1928

1907-1908	J.D. Huggins, Principal
1908-1910	J.A. Brown, and J. D. Huggins, Co-principals
1910-1911	J.M. Hamrick, Principal J.D. Huggins, Assistant Principal
1911-1914	W.J. Francis, Principal J.D. Huggins, Assistant Principal
1914-1928	J.D. Huggins, Principal

Although Mr. Huggins was principal throughout much of the history of the high school, others also served as principal or shared administrative responsibilities. O.P. Hamrick reports that in the second year of the school's operation, J.A. Brown was elected co-principal in the hope that sharing the discipline and finances of the institution would make it easier to operate the school successfully. Instead, in the second year, according to Hamrick, the finances worsened, and by the fourth year of operation, 1910, the Board decided to relieve Mr. Huggins of the financial responsibility of operating the school and employed a new principal. Mr. Huggins became assistant principal, along-side the new principal, a popular preacher and teacher from Rutherford County, Rev. J.M. Hamrick. (O.P. Hamrick, p.44.) Rev. J.M. Hamrick took the position with the understanding that it would be a temporary appointment. According to people who knew him, Rev. Hamrick had a pleasing personality. Since he had preached in a number of churches in the Sandy Run Association, he brought with him some students from the area. In 1910 the school was reported to have the largest enrollment (268) (OPH, p. 19) since the school was founded.

Rev. Hamrick had previously served as a member of the Board of Trustees and was on the board in 1905 when the school was founded. He had also taught classes in the high school and served briefly as pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church. He served only one year as principal. According to the 1911 report by the Trustees to the Kings Mountain Baptist Association, Rev. Hamrick "succeeded so well in this

position as principal that the Board did everything in its power to induce him to retain the position." However, it was reported that he could not resist the call of the Spirit to return to the pastorate. According to O.P. Hamrick, Rev. J.M. Hamrick had a few discipline problems, as might be expected. In the early history of the high school, it had been a custom for the students to cut classes on April Fool's Day. Principal J.M. Hamrick warned that any student leaving campus on that day would be expelled. When the fateful day arrived, practically every student left school. It was up to the principal to carry out the threat to expel them all or retract what he had said. It was impractical to expel them all, so he had to retract. After he returned to a successful ministry, Rev. Hamrick continued to be a generous supporter of the high school and retained the position of teacher in the Bible Department.

According to O.P. Hamrick, the Board of Trustees then decided what was needed was a good disciplinarian. Prof. W.J. Francis had gained quite a reputation as a successful administrator and disciplinarian in the Gaffney, SC city schools. Prof. Francis was a native of Haywood County and graduated with honors from Wake Forest College. Prof. Huggins continued to hold the position of assistant principal.

In the report of the Board of Trustees to the Kings Mountain Association in 1913, the Trustees made this positive report:

Under the able management of Prof. W.J. Francis and his able corps of assistants your school has made gratifying progress along all lines and is steadily and surely gaining in usefulness. Considering the quality of work being done, the ability of the teaching force to give instruction, together with the natural advantage which your school enjoys, and, further considering the low cost to students, your Board asserts without fear of contradiction that this school stands without a peer in this field. The substantial progress of Christianity is conditioned upon and co-existent with the like progress of Christian intelligence. The success and growth of the Baptist denomination, as such, is strengthened, fortified and advanced by the agencies of Christian denominational schools, where our ministers and missionaries receive their initial training and our boys and girls are taught the fundamental principles of good citizenship. Your



1914 Graduates

1st row: Dovie Hopper Jolley, Thomas Gillespie, Claudia Lattimore, unknown, D.Cole,
2nd row: Lois Miller, Ollie Crabtree, Ladd Hamrick, Edna Lattimore, unknown, Rinda Goode, (picture
saved by the late Dovie Hopper Jolley)

Board has pursued the policy of employing only teachers who have graduated from reputable colleges, which policy, though more expensive, has won a high place in that realm where only the best schools are found.

As the high school grew in enrollment and faculty and new technological advances occurred, the physical conditions gradually improved. By 1912 an acetylene plant for lighting had been installed. Prof. Huggins, who was still assistant principal, assisted by a number of students and loyal friends of the school, was responsible for securing this plant which was located behind the Main Building. The Main

Building and the boys' dormitory, built in 1910 and referred to as the "Barn," as well as the Boiling Springs Baptist Church, began to be lighted by this generator.

Also, it was reported at the Association in 1912 that through the faithful efforts of Prof. Francis and other leading citizens of the community, a very deep well had just been completed for the joint use of the Boiling Springs High School, the public school, and Boiling Springs Baptist Church.

In 1912 the J.D. Huggins Memorial Arch was presented to the Trustees by the last senior class. The arch with the Latin "Pro Deo et Humanitate" (for God and Humanity) was placed on the southeast corner of the main building. Through the years many graduating



classes of the high school, the junior college, and the senior college have walked through or near the arch. The arch has been located at different sites on campus as the place of graduation has changed.

When the supporting associations set a goal (as they often did) to raise an amount of money for the high school,

the leaders did not hesitate to remind the churches of the importance of education. At the 1913 Associational meetings the trustees reported:

Brethren, secondary schools are our fortress. Nine out of ten, on an average, never go to college. It is true that some Baptists send their sons and daughters to schools other than Baptist schools which is not the thing to do, and we should put forth every effort to make secondary schools just as strong as possible. Boiling Springs is your school. It is growing rapidly; it needs your help. Will you give us your influence, your sympathy, your prayers, but most of all your sons and daughters? You can if you will.

When there was a particular indebtedness of the school that one or more associations had committed to removing, the association would apportion to its churches, or accept as pledges from the churches, money to remove the indebtedness.

In 1914 the Kings Mountain Association was attempting to raise \$500 for the school. There was a roll call of the churches and pledges ranging from \$2.50 to \$100 were made by the churches and individuals, for a total of \$525.

Prof. Francis resigned the principalship in April 1914. A few months later, Prof. Huggins again became principal and remained principal throughout the high school period, which ended in 1928. While most of the students in the early period had come from Cleveland and Rutherford Counties, students were now coming from a wider geographic area.

Fifteen counties in the two Carolinas were represented in the 1914 student body. Gradually, the school was expanding its service area, and its influence.

The curriculum was also attracting students with a greater variety of educational and occupational interests. However, as a school owned and operated by the Baptist associations, there was special emphasis given to the education of ministerial students. The 1914 report of the Trustees to the annual Kings Mountain Associational meeting said, "We re-affirm our convictions that young men who feel that the Lord is calling them to the Gospel ministry should tarry long enough in the solitude of school life to adequately prepare themselves for the great work they are to accomplish. The age in which we live demands that the minister of Jesus Christ be trained so that he keeps himself above the level of intelligence of the people whom he would lead."

These Baptists who founded the high school obviously realized the importance of an educated clergy. Ministerial students were not required to pay tuition. In one report the ministerial students were referred to as "a noble set of Christian young men." Often in the associational reports, there were lists of those who were studying for the ministry and at some annual association meetings, all ministerial students in the high school were recognized by name and asked to stand.

However, the school's founders and supporters were not attempting to educate ministers with an elitist attitude. In the words of the 1920 report of the trustees to the Kings Mountain Association, "We should view Christian education in its relation to the masses of people. For upon the right education of the people depends the life of our democratic nation and upon the life of the nation depends the progress of the church."

A staff member who sought to instill Christian principles was Miss Etta Curtis, who became the lady principal in 1909 with specific responsibilities for the female students. Based on all accounts, Miss Curtis ran "a tight ship." No former student of the high school or junior college can be found who did not respect and appreciate Miss Curtis and at the same time had a clear recollection of the rules and regulations of the school, including the enforcement of those rules by Miss Curtis.

A *Cleveland Star* article of November 13, 1918 attributed to a writer identified only as "Lem" spoke glowingly of Miss Etta Curtis. He refers to Miss Curtis

as the greatest woman of our village, the town of Boiling Springs. The writer referred to her detailed strictness. He wondered how any student could leave Miss Curtis' class and find "no gentle breeze of strictness flowing against every enterprise of his life." He explained that when Miss Curtis taught, no "i" was to be left undotted, and no period was to be omitted even though the sentence was on a mottled, scribbled blackboard.

The author further noted that Miss Curtis is a woman of sincere reverence to God and quotes her as saying, "In my weak way I am trying to do the work that I believe God has for me to do, and if any good comes as a result it will be through the strength and wisdom of Him whom I try to serve."

"Miss Curtis," as she was called by students, was born Henrietta Lucinda Curtis, on September 4, 1858 in Catawba County, NC. She was the daughter of Dr. Henry and Sara Cochran Curtis and the granddaughter of Dr. Thomas Curtis, founder and first president of Limestone College in Gaffney, SC. She attended Mitchell College in Statesville. Before coming to Boiling Springs High School, she taught in Hickory, Shelby, and Fallston. (Fallston was named for her brother-in-law, D. F. Falls.) She served Boiling Springs High School and Boiling Springs Junior College for twenty-seven years. In 1936, eight years after the school had become a junior college, she retired at the age of 78.

In the 1913 report of the Trustees to the Kings Mountain Baptist Association, Miss Curtis was referred to as "a lady of refined culture, kind and sympathetic, rich in experience, firm and steadfast in purpose, and prizing the cardinal virtues above everything else. Your Board can safely assure the parents that their girls will be safe when under her care and protection."

Early catalogs clearly stated the purpose and philosophy of the school and regulations of the school relating to behavior:

- 1. The purpose of the school is to combine the influence of the culture and moral training with the advantages of in-intellectual discipline.*
- 2. Those who avail themselves of the advantages of this school, founded in the prayers and by the sacrifice of Christian men and women, are expected to accord reverence to the natural expressions of Christian thought and action. Personal belief in all forms of truth presented may not be expected in these*

days of free inquiry, but a reverential attitude toward truth is a moral prerequisite to the special advantages which the Christian school offers above other schools.

Therefore, the following requirements are made:

- 1. In deportment, each student will be expected and required to be faithful in work, prompt and regular in performance of all school duties, and in their relations with their teachers and fellow-students to cultivate and practice those courtesies recognized by ladies and gentlemen.*
- 2. The use of alcoholic drinks, card playing, gambling in any form, swearing, willful disobedience or any gross immoral conduct will not be tolerated.*
- 3. Smoking in or about the school building and the use of cigarettes at any time while a member of this school is strictly forbidden.*
- 4. No secret societies will be allowed among the students, and no organization will be permitted that has not been approved by the faculty.*

It was also stated that when the students are placed in this school, its laws must prevail, and parents are not expected to interfere by calling their children away and directing their movements during the term. The catalogs explained opportunities and requirements to help develop students' Christian lives:

We desire to call special attention to the moral atmosphere which at all times surrounds the school, and the Christian spirit which prevails among the student body. Potent factors in this line are the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. Membership in these is not compulsory, but both are well attended. All students are required to attend church and Sunday School each Sunday.

In addition to expected separation in housing, for many years young ladies and young gentlemen were segregated in various other ways. The ladies were required to use one flight of stairs going down to the cafeteria in the Huggins-Curtis Building, and the gentlemen must use the other flight of stairs. The ladies were not to talk to the gentlemen when meeting them on campus, and there was to be no visiting among ladies during study hours. A former student, Troy Bridges, reported that male students in the high school were sometimes disciplined by having to dig up stumps. Some were disciplined in this way

for speaking to a member of the opposite sex in a situation where this was not allowed. When students went to C.J. Hamrick's Store, about one mile from the campus, as they often did, they would be lined up to walk to the store.

While such rules may seem very strict by modern standards, it might be accurate to say that the rules generally had parental approval and were not considered overly strict by students of that era. Students were expected to study and not to frolic. These rules were designed to create an atmosphere in which students could study with the fewest distractions in an atmosphere where Christian principles and behavior prevailed.

C.C. Goode, who attended the high school, made it clear that there were many attempts by students to circumvent the rules, but they were often thwarted by Miss Curtis or other college officials. Mr. Goode related that because of the school, this area was thought of as the principal seat of learning and culture and some of the leading farmers from ten to twenty miles around would send their daughters as boarding students. He explained that these young ladies would come to the school on Tuesday morning or late Monday afternoon and would live in the dormitory during the week and go home on Saturday afternoon. In those days, classes were held on Saturday rather than on Monday. One young man in the community became enamored of one of the young ladies and hatched a plot to be with her. The young lady's father often would send a trusted hired hand to pick up the lady on Saturday. The ardent swain devised a plan to get the young lady off campus under the pretense that the horse and buggy belonged to her father. The young man would be off campus and would take charge of the buggy once it was off campus, and then they would go their merry way. Once, however, the horse ran away with the buggy before it was turned over to the young suitor. Miss Curtis learned of the plot, and this method of deception ceased. This did not stop young love, however, and this couple, according to Mr. Goode, eventually married.

Because the boarding students were not nearly as free to go home as modern students and because of Saturday classes, many students stayed on campus on the weekend. There were many social events on campus or at the spring for students. Ice cream suppers, oyster suppers, box suppers, and horseshoe pitching were types of activities in which students engaged. Today with many high school students and

most college students owning automobiles it is hard to imagine how difficult and time-consuming it was to travel anywhere in the pre-automobile days. Travis Honeycutt, who was among the first students to enroll and grandfather of current vice-president John Brock, arrived in Boiling Springs from Cabarrus County, NC on his bicycle - no small task considering there were no paved roads along his route. His baggage arrived later by rail. Most students, however, lived within at least fifty miles of the campus and extremely long distance travel was not required. Also a sizeable number of students who lived in the Boiling Springs area walked to school each day.

Early school publications observed that "all proper games and sports were encouraged by the school authorities, believing them to be conducive to the best interest of the students, giving healthful mental diversion and physical exercise. However, no student could take part in athletics whose grade average was below 75."

Athletic competition with other schools was not a significant feature of the high school period, though there were athletic teams representing the high school. Reasons for relatively few athletic events were cost of travel, the cost of equipping a team, and probably most important, lack of schools with whom to compete. John Roberts, former Director of Public Relations for Gardner-Webb, interviewed Broadus E.

("Pop") Simmons whom some readers will remember as a popular high school and American Legion baseball coach.

In a November 1950 interview in the *Shelby Daily Star*, Pop told Mr. Roberts of the first football game in Cleveland County. It was 1920 and Gaffney High School, a pioneer in football in the Piedmont Carolinas, had challenged Boiling Springs High School to a football game. The



**Broadus E. "Pop"
Simmons**

played on first football
team at Boiling Springs
High School. Later well-
known baseball coach in
Cleveland County



1913 Tennis Team

R to L: Blanche Owens, Leola Borders, Edna Lattimore, Pearl Padgett, Miss. Barbie (music teacher), Edna Ferguson, unidentified, Laura Falls (mother of Robert Borders and Sara Self), Clara Hines, Lucy Lattimore, Zelma Huskey, Cordie Allen, unidentified, unidentified, Louise Beatty, Myrtle Rumble, Miss. Rogers (music teacher). Picture furnished by Laura Falls Borders family.

Boiling Springs team did not have a coach, ball, or equipment, so negotiations were handled by Pop Simmons, a student. He was a baseball star whose football knowledge consisted of having watched one game. According to Pop, he and Paul Greene got up a gang of boys and practiced all week, using an old shoe for the ball. "We learned something about the finer points of stopping the opposition," Mr. Simmons recalled.

When the fateful Saturday in 1920 arrived, Mr. Simmons hustled his team out, each member dressed in four or five pairs of pants and as many shirts. The whole padded lot was bedecked with a top layer of overalls. "Talk about psychological warfare! Boy, that was it!" he chuckled. "That Gaffney crowd looked at our size with all that rig on, and they just folded up. The game itself was just one long fight," recalled Pop. "They lined up on a rocky, briar-infested cane field near the College, pointed out the landmarks that represented the boundaries, and Gaffney elected to receive. I was playing right end." Pop recalled. "The fellow opposite me hit me hard in the stomach with his shoulder, and I let him have it in the face with my fist. When we lined up for the next play, his nose was bleeding, and he sorta backed off to one side when the ball was snapped."

The lone referee was Adam Whisnant, a Boiling Springs resident who had seen a few football games

while serving in the Navy during World War I. Players, besides Simmons and Greene, included Clyde Jones, later to make All-Southern at Wake Forest under Coach Hank Garrity; and the Rev. Horace G. Hammett of Columbia, SC who co-authored the school's *Alma Mater*.

"The rocks and cane stubble were mighty rough," recalled Pop, "and so was the playing. By game's end, we were all bruised and bleeding. We beat 'em, though, 6-0. Our touchdown came on an end sweep that almost went out of bounds. The referee sighted from one boundary tree to another and, aided by a few threats from us, decided it was inside."

Simmons continued his career in baseball during his college days at Wake Forest and coached baseball and basketball for thirty years. He said with a sigh, however, that his football days came and went on a fall Saturday in 1920 when the Boiling Springs High School beat Gaffney 6-0. Such was the inauspicious beginning of football at Gardner-Webb. (*Shelby Daily Star*, 11-25-55)

The high school did have basketball, tennis and baseball teams very early in its history. The very first year of the school's operation, a baseball team was fielded. J. G. Crawford managed the 1907 baseball team. Bill Willis was catcher and Howard Smith pitched. The baseball field was located near the home of Prof. J.D. Huggins and therefore near the site of

the present Dover Memorial Library. There are few available won and lost records in the high school period. However, the 1925 gridders compiled a season record of five wins against four defeats. One of the losses was to Shelby High School by a 28-13 score. The coach of the 1925 Boiling Springs High School team was Bible professor H.H. Wells, whom one of the players remembers as being one who knew little about the game but just went along with the team to "keep order." (G.W. Convocation - Special Edition, March 20, 1965, *Shelby Daily Star*.)

Catalogs of high schools and colleges today generally do not carry advertisements of businesses, other schools, and hospitals. This type of advertisement in the modern era would show up in the press or on radio and T.V. However, many of the early catalogs of the high school did carry such advertisements of places of business in Boiling Springs, Shelby, and surrounding areas, as well as Wake Forest, Meredith, and other denominational institutions. Businesses in Boiling Springs that were advertised included C. J. Hamrick's Store, R. D. Hord's Garage, Lee's Cash Store, the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, and A. W. McSwain's Store. Because of the cultural changes, some of the advertisements should be interesting to modern readers. One ad proclaimed, "If you want a good education, go to Boiling Springs High School. When you want good hardware, go to Farmers and Planters Hardware Company in Shelby." City Cafe in Shelby was described as Shelby's leading eating house with a private room for ladies. Foretelling "celebrity" endorsements of years to come, Prof. Huggins evidently was asked to allow use of his name to plug some of the businesses in the area. From the catalog of 1921-1922, a full-page ad:

Dear Sir:

In answer to the inquiry of recent date concerning the work of the Gilbert Studio of Cliffside, North Carolina, I beg to say that for all kinds of fine photographic and kodak work, the Gilbert Studio is hard to beat. Our dealings with this firm have been highly satisfactory and very pleasant.

Sincerely,
J.D. Huggins, principal
Boiling Springs High
School

C.J. Hamrick's Store in Boiling Springs was advertised in catalogs of the high school as one of five stores in the county that handled school books. One advertisement added that furniture, plows, buggies, barbed wire, salt, flour, and several other things were bought in carload lots. Students were "invited to visit and get the benefit of bargains and polite treatment." C.J. Hamrick and his son E.B. Hamrick and their descendants have been leading supporters of the school. At times E.B. Hamrick kept the school alive by letting students have produce sold in the store when they had no money to pay and by canceling the debts of the school.

Advertisers aimed at the moral and industrious ideals parents and faculty sought hard to hammer home. In the 1915-16 catalog the Grand Theater in Shelby touted their "moral, educative and instructive" films, only the best, every reel carefully selected, nothing to offend. Such ads reveal much about the culture of the early twentieth century in comparison to today's. Protection of young people from seeing, reading, and hearing stories and materials that were considered degrading was obviously looked upon by these businesses as a function of the advertiser as well as the school. Other pitches for such things as plows and barbed wire illustrate very clearly that the students were part of a rural culture.

The story of the high school and University as well as of the town of Boiling Springs and Boiling Springs Baptist Church could not be told without exploring the multiple roles of O.P. Hamrick. Mr. Hamrick, author of the invaluable local history *Born at the Crossroads* was one of seven children of E.B. Hamrick, long-time merchant and philanthropist in Boiling Springs and for whom the E. B. Hamrick Hall is named. O.P. Hamrick was the grandson of C.J. Hamrick, founder of C.J. Hamrick's Store in Boiling Springs, the oldest mercantile establishment in Cleveland County. "Mr. O.P." was the second student to enroll in the Boiling Springs High School and was in the first graduating class of 1911. After receiving a B.A. degree from Wake Forest College in 1914, he came back to his hometown to do his first teaching in the Boiling Springs High School. He was to play many roles in the school's growth and development through the years. After 1914, he served at various times as English teacher and business manager or bursar in the school. He also canvassed for students in the early high school period. With the establishment of the state high school system in the



O.P. Hamrick

Second student to enroll in Boiling Springs High School and become a teacher for the school. Became first principal of Boiling Springs Public School

late 1920s and the 1930s, Mr. Hamrick became principal of Boiling Springs High School, and served as principal from 1932 until his retirement in 1957.

Among many activities in his retirement, he wrote the autobiography entitled *Born at the Crossroads*, which included much of the story of Gardner-Webb and the town of Boiling Springs. Mr. Hamrick relates that at one time he discussed with one trustee the possibility of becoming principal of Boiling Springs Baptist High School. However, because of his youth, it was not thought wise that he assume such responsibility, but he instead became business manager and English teacher and later became principal of the Boiling Springs public school.

Mr. Hamrick felt that part of the financial problems of the school in its infancy derived from the fact that churches, people in general, and even trustees thought of the school as a business that should support itself (p.43). They did not realize, he felt, that the student fees could never be high enough to fully take care of the expenses in a high school that boarded many of its students. Mr. Hamrick was the

eternal optimist who seemed always ready to give a positive interpretation to whatever happened. He also was known for his tremendous memory of things that to him were important, such as the exact amount of money that the high school had in accounts, or as treasurer of the Boiling Springs Baptist Church, the exact amount of the total offering each Sunday.

On the other hand, there are many stories of the absent-mindedness of Mr. Hamrick. There is the story of his driving his car to Shelby, riding home on the bus, and leaving his wife who could not drive in Shelby. One of the best-known stories around Boiling Springs relating to Mr. Hamrick tells of the day he had his cow tied to his automobile at home and suddenly decided he needed to come to the crossroads in Boiling Springs. He forgot the cow was tied to the car and came dragging her down the highway behind the car. He was the typical absent-minded professor; however, when it came to dealing with significant issues related to his church, his school, and his community, he had a very keen memory.

In 1968 the trustees, advisors, administrators, faculty, and student body of Gardner-Webb distributed in the area a resolution of appreciation for Oliver Paul Hamrick. At Mr. Hamrick's funeral in 1968, Rev. T. Max Linnens, pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church, gave this eulogy:

You could count on him throughout his forty-six years as an educator at the Baptist High School, the college, and later the state high school. You could count on him at church, as a member of the board of the college, as a town board member and as a member of the Board of Trustees of Royster Memorial Hospital.

But more than all these, you could count on him as a steady friend who could agree to disagree.

There were many other people who played important roles in various capacities in the high school and college. Two others who must be discussed are Mrs. J.D. Huggins, wife of the first principal, and Mrs. Lillian Ritch, dietitian.

Mrs. J.D. Huggins, Sr., was more than just the wife of J.D. Huggins, first principal of the high school and first dean of the college. Mrs. Huggins was twenty-five years of age and a bride of a few months when she and Prof. Huggins first came to Boiling Springs. Mrs. Huggins taught English, Latin, and Greek in the high school and continued teaching in the College until the mid 1930s when she changed to the local



Mrs. J.D. Huggins, Sr.
Teacher at Boiling
Springs High School,
Housemother at Boiling
Springs Junior College

public school. In 1947 she was asked to return to the College as counselor for young women and as an English teacher. She remained in this position until 1952 when she retired.

In an interview in *Charity and Children*, a Baptist periodical, not long before her death in 1962, she talked about the fact that during their time in the school, it struggled for financial support. She said, "These were lean years, and the school

treasury was as empty as the pockets of the students. Being broke never dampened our spirits; rather it drew us together as a close and loyal group." She reported that once the entire student body spent a day picking cotton on nearby farms to raise money for a school project.

Mrs. Huggins also told of a great athlete who gave Prof. Huggins credit for his running ability. The boy is reported to have said, "I spent all summer running down chickens to save and pay my school bill. Of course, I was in shape when the football season started."

Thinking back to her early teaching days, Mrs. Huggins remembered girls who came to school and made good records for themselves when they hardly had clothes to wear. Once she was called on to furnish from memory a school record for a former student needing credits to earn a teaching certificate. With official records burned by the fire that destroyed the Huggins-Curtis Building in 1957, and with no one able to recall the woman's matriculation at the school, Mrs. Huggins supplied the records that were needed. She was the only one who could identify the woman and recall the caliber of work. The record was accepted by an eastern North Carolina college, and the woman received her teaching certificate.

Until her death in 1962, Mrs. Huggins continued to live in the large house on campus which she and Professor Huggins had built soon after moving to Boiling Springs. This house was on the approximate site of the present Dover Memorial Library.

One older student who attended the high school was Rev. Watson Abrams from Rutherford County. Abrams had felt the call to preach but knew that he needed more education. He was discouraged about coming to school by some of his friends who told him that he did not need to go to school, that if God called him to preach, He would fill his mouth. Rev. Abrams stated in his book *View from the Mountaintop*, that he knew God had called him, but He was not filling his mouth as it should be filled. Other ministers advised him to go to school and trust in the Lord to make the way possible. His wife, Daisy, agreed to sell her piano so that he could at least get started. A buyer paid two hundred and fifty dollars, so he enrolled at Boiling Springs High School. In his book, Rev. Abrams wrote:

Upon hearing of my enrollment in the high school, our friends and relatives made all kinds of predictions and prophecies:

'Ah, he won't stay there three months.'

'I just don't see what he means, trying to go to school at his age, he couldn't learn anything regardless of how hard he might try.'

'When he gets hungry he'll be back.'

Well, we were hungry many times but we kept trying and kept trusting in the Lord. We cooked on a little oil stove and heated the room with a small wood heater. I picked up chips in the woods where cord wood had been cut, to burn in the wood stove.

Prof. O. P. Hamrick had several acres of cotton near the school and he needed someone to help pick it. I asked for the job and he hired me at one dollar per hundred pounds. We were happy to know there would be a small income, for a while at least.

Daisy insisted on going with me to the cotton field. We got up every morning before the sun was up and started working. When it was time for school to start I left her and she worked until noon. As soon as the lunch bell rang I ran back to the cotton field. We sat down between the rows and ate our lunch and I picked cotton until time to go back to class. When school was over in the afternoon we continued to work until night. I studied until the early hours of morning. It was hard work, especially for Daisy, but she

The High School Years

never complained. We picked over five thousand pounds of cotton that fall.

Daisy washed all of our clothes out under the big trees in the back yard. She scrubbed them on the scrub board in a tub of hot soapy water. Then she put them in the big black iron pot with a fire built under it to keep the water boiling. The clothes boiled until all the dirt was gone and they were snowy white. One day when she was dipping hot water from the pot and putting it into the tub, she stumbled and spilled the boiling water. It ran down her legs and into her shoes. Her legs and feet were blistered. The pain was almost unbearable but she refused to see a doctor because money was scarce. When I tried to get her to go to the doctor she said:

'My own home remedies will do as much good as his medicine will and I will do my own doctoring.'

So she did, the burns finally healed. I do not know how she was able to endure all the hardships. I could never have gotten through school had it not been for her courage and strength.

Mrs. Lillian Ritch served for some thirty years as matron, inspector of boys' dorms, and dietitian. The author remembers Mrs. Ritch and the delicious meals served at the College in the 1944-45 school year. Her tenure with the school spanned the high school and the junior college era from approximately 1915-1945. Mrs. Ritch had previously been at Woman's College in Columbia, SC. For a number of years, she was responsible for a flower garden which was directly behind the Huggins-Curtis Building. From this garden, she would often provide beautiful flowers for the tables in the cafeteria which was located in the basement of the Huggins-Curtis Building.

The trustees reported to the Kings Mountain Association in 1915 that "our new matron fully understands how to practice economy with maximum of efficiency. This is fully demonstrated by the fact that she furnished good board the first month of the present term at a total cost of \$5.90 per student, including salary of matron, cooks, and helpers."

The 1938 yearbook *Bubbles*, was dedicated to Mrs. Ritch. She was described as a "woman of highest Christian character, of self-sacrificing principles, of untiring devotion, of deepest concern for others and of motherly instinct." The dedicatory statement also said, "During her 22 years of service as a dietitian she has made a place in the hearts of hundreds of men

and women who have gone out to bless the world. She has not fed 5,000 on 5 loaves and 2 fishes, but she has been able to serve wholesome and appetizing food to the students when there was little stock in the larder."

Mrs. Ritch was the mother of Mrs. Rebecca Hamrick, whose husband Ladd Hamrick was a son of E.B. Hamrick. She was also a cousin and good friend of Miss Etta Curtis. Her service to the school was during

much of the same time period as that of Mrs. J.D. Huggins. On December 6, 1993 President Christopher White announced that the banquet hall in the Dover Campus Center has a new name: the Lillian M. Ritch Banquet Hall.

During the high school period, the churches and associations were regularly made aware of the school and its needs as well as the fact that they owned and operated Boiling Springs High School. At the Sandy Run Associational meeting in 1916, the report included the statement, "We are especially interested in Boiling Springs High School which we own and control. We have many obligations to this school; therefore let us stand by it and give it a chance to do its best."

In 1919 Mr. Huggins informed the trustees that the school was in fine health. But as Dedmond (p. 51) pointed out, "It was characteristic of the man that he did not mention his own health." Early in the summer of 1915, Prof. Huggins became critically ill from a resurgence of an ailment he had experienced earlier. He was hospitalized, and his right leg was amputated above the knee.

Emphasizing the "health of the school," the 1918 Trustee report to the Kings Mountain Baptist Association included the fact that the Christian school was the training camp for Christian leadership. "Christian schools," stated the report, "furnish sixty-nine percent of the Christian leadership for our state and nation and ninety-one



Mrs. Lillian Ritch
Matron-Dorms and
Dietitian, for Boiling
Springs High School
and Boiling Springs
Junior College



The "Barn" Boy's Dorm Boiling Springs High School and Junior College. Also later used as Music Building

percent of the missionaries and all this despite the fact that the state educated only half of the young people."

In many ways, the high school continued to expand and improve, but financial problems persisted. It was ten years from the time the students first moved into the Main Building (Huggins-Curtis) in January 1908 before the debt on the building was liquidated.

By the 1919-1920 school year, the enrollment was 366. The school was turning away applicants for lack of space. An overflowing schoolhouse prompted trustees in 1919 to plan a three-story building as a memorial to all servicemen. To be memorialized were those who had previously attended the institution and others from the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Baptist Associations who served during World War I, as well as the mothers of these servicemen. Work began on this third major building on campus in the spring of 1920. The other two men's buildings were Huggins-Curtis, and the men's residence hall, called the "barn," a smaller building built in 1910.

The new residence hall, the "Barn," was financed in an unusual way. The trustees of the school reported in 1910 that, "We are pleased to announce that a few friends of the school have recently organized themselves into a joint stock company and have erected on the school grounds a three-story building with twenty-four rooms as a dormitory for boys. The stockholders will receive the rent for the rooms until such time as the Board of Trustees is able to buy the building. It is to be hoped that other friends of the school will join the present stockholders and double the capacity of this building at once." This was one way around a common problem: the cost of construction was climbing radically. The original cost estimate for the Memorial Building was \$40,000; when it was finished in 1925, the bill was \$65,000. (Dedmond, p. 58.)

The Memorial Building became the main classroom and administrative building, with ladies living in the Huggins-Curtis Building and the young men in "the Barn." The offices of President, Dean of Instruction, Registrar, and the business offices were in Memorial

Hall at various times. The building, in the shape of a cross, and known today as the E. B. Hamrick Hall, is on the National Register of Historic Buildings. The building is currently being renovated.

It was not until after World War II and the school had been a junior college for approximately fifteen years that other major buildings were constructed on campus. Delaying factors included the Great Depression of the late 1920s and 1930s and eventually World War II.

Many persons were responsible for keeping the school solvent during the school's early history. An area pastor who was a major leader in both the high school and junior college periods was Rev. John W. Suttle. This country preacher, Gardner-Webb trustee and supporter, Kings Mountain Baptist Association moderator, and well-known preacher throughout North Carolina was the subject of a biography by Dr. Wyan Washburn in 1958, *Canaan in Carolina: Rev. John W. Suttle*. Dr. Washburn pointed out that Rev. Suttle was not in the county when the school was first organized. But he came soon thereafter, preaching in area churches, and from that time forward, he was a staunch supporter of the school. (p. 26)

Dr. Washburn related interesting stories of Rev. Suttle and his fundraising activities for the school. Rev. Suttle once said, "I volunteered to help with construction of the new building, but they took one look at my 115 pounds and said that I wouldn't be worth much as a hod carrier, and I didn't know how to do anything else. I heard they were running short on money, so I volunteered to help raise money."

Telling of his fundraising activities, Rev. Suttle said, "I drove my horse and buggy all over Cleveland and Rutherford Counties during the fall of 1909 trying to get a little money for the new building which had been authorized by the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Associations." He related that most of the gifts were nickels, dimes, and quarters, with a few dollars and occasionally ten dollars. Very rarely was there a promise of one hundred dollars.

After one day of collecting, Rev. Suttle reported, "When I got home that night, I had \$3.20 in cash and 68 cents pledged. The only other thing I got that day was a good dinner of fresh beans, cornbread, and blackberry pie and some oats for my horse."

Dr. Washburn believed that Rev. Suttle was identified more actively with the operation of the school than any other person. (p.136). No doubt Rev. John Suttle's efforts are one of the major reasons that

Gardner-Webb exists today as an outstanding university. While he did not have the day-to-day contact with the school that Prof. Huggins and others had, he and other pastors such as Rev. J.L. Jenkins and Dr. Zeno Wall played vital roles in keeping the school alive during some hard economic periods.

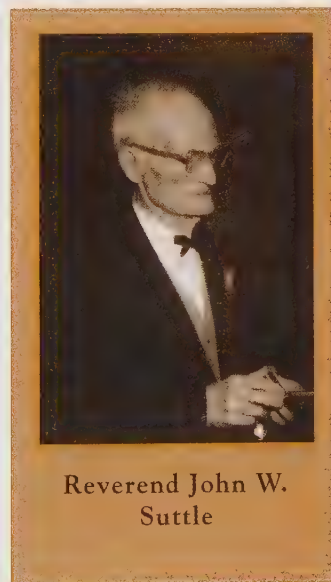
Dr. Washburn recorded that Rev. Suttle not only went after funds for the first building but was active in every financial campaign for the high school and later for the junior college. He was on the Board of Trustees continuously after 1910 and was chairman of the board on several occasions. (p. 136)

For forty years (1913-1952, inclusive), Rev. Suttle was moderator of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association. This position and his place on the Board of Trustees of the high school and later the junior college, along with the force of his character, enabled him to have tremendous influence on the school. In 1948 he was elected president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. At that time he was the first country preacher in half a century to hold this high office.

Rev. Suttle died in 1963 at the age of ninety-one. His legacy included Gardner-Webb which he promoted and encouraged for many years, and many thriving churches which he had pastored. It is remarkable the number of Baptist denominational leaders that came from Double Springs Baptist Church in Cleveland County which he pastored for thirty-nine years. This church produced such men as J.N. Barnett, A.V. Washburn, D.P. Brooks, and Nolan Howington of the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board. Also Drs. Wyan and Gene

Washburn, University and town physicians; Mrs. Dorothy Washburn Hamrick Edwards, registrar and admission officer at Gardner-Webb for a total of thirty-seven years, and their eight older brothers and sisters grew up attending Double Springs Church.

During the high school era, there were a number of tragic occurrences. One of these happened just



Reverend John W.
Suttle

before Christmas in the winter of 1915. Wood-burning stoves were still being used in the residence halls. W.G. Zimmerman, a student, set out to light one of these wood-burners. He had poured kerosene several times but was having difficulty getting a fire started. Finally the kerosene became ignited and exploded. Other students went scurrying to the boys' dormitory. When they reached the young man, his clothing was still aflame. He died three days later in the Rutherford Hospital. (Dedmond, p. 50)

Another event grew out of the practice of hazing and the unfortunate activities of several students. Hazing had been outlawed in the state of North Carolina but continued to be a problem in some schools. The Boiling Springs High School seemingly never had many serious problems with this practice. There is, however, the confirmed story of one student who lived in the dormitory moving out into the community to avoid having trouble with the boys who kept bothering him. One night a group of students went to the house where he was living and forced their way into his room. He had a razor and in the struggle with the boys injured the throat of one of his attackers enough to bring blood which dripped down on the boy's shirt. The group fled after the incident, but by the bloodstains and other evidence, Prof. Huggins was able to get the names of the aggressors and under the law, expelled them. (OPH, p.55)

There had been Baptist high schools in many parts of the State. Baptist leaders came to realize that as the state tax-supported school system emerged, these church-supported high schools could not successfully compete. Thus many of these schools simply closed. Boiling Springs Baptist High School was vulnerable, because students could go to the new public schools in their communities more cheaply. So the high school adapted by becoming a junior college.

The enrollment in the high school peaked in 1919-1920 when 366 students enrolled. In 1924-1925, there were 272 students. The enrollment further declined until in 1927-1928, only 138 attended.

On a more positive note, in 1924, the Trustees reported to the Associations, "The main building, Huggins-Curtis, is now fully equipped and the boys' dormitory and the wooden cottage partially equipped with steam heat and water, and all are equipped with electric lights." Also reported was that the building committee had placed a contract for installing in the sub-basement of the Memorial Building a central heating plant for all of the present buildings and for

future buildings, and that negotiations were then underway for the erection of an elevated water tank adequate in size for present and future buildings.

The trustees continued their report: "You now have a campus consisting of nine acres of land and four buildings - three brick and one wooden cottage - forming a semi-circle facing a beautiful modern church building." These buildings were the Main Building (Huggins-Curtis) which was completed in 1908; the Memorial Building completed in 1925, and the Boys' Dormitory (Barn) completed in 1910. The other building was a cottage or house built in 1911 between the Memorial Building and the Barn. This building served various purposes over the years including living quarters for faculty.

The trustees continued to remind the Associations of the value of the school. At a Sandy Run Association meeting, the trustees reported, "We point with special pride to the moral and Christian atmosphere which now surrounds your school. It was never better. Two great evangelistic meetings of two weeks each have been conducted at the school church, Boiling Springs Baptist Church, during the calendar year. These have resulted in great spiritual blessings to the school and the community. As evidenced by this fact, we have only nine students who are non-church members."

At the Kings Mountain Association meeting in 1927, the trustees reported that the progress of our colleges in North Carolina has been in keeping with that of the whole Southern Baptist Convention, but our high schools have sustained a tremendous loss in numbers in the last few years, so much so that the status of the high schools must be changed to that of junior colleges in order to survive.

Trustees and administrators explained to the Association that it would be best if the school become a junior college. One of these entreaties in the October 1928 report of the trustees to the supporting associations said, "In the Christian school, education and Christianity go hand in hand, and without this, education is a very dangerous thing. An educated man without Christ is a very uncertain factor in many communities."

After much deliberation, the Board of Trustees recommended to the associations that the school become a junior college, beginning with the 1928-1929 school year. All three associations then involved - Kings Mountain, Sandy Run, and Gaston, approved. A resolution in turn was presented to the Educational Board of the Baptist

State Convention of North Carolina. That board authorized Dr. Gordon Maddrey, general secretary, "to come to the territory and meet a delegation from the high school board to see if some plan could be evolved that would protect the future of the school." Two major points were agreed upon:

1. *The school would continue with some high school work.*
2. *The school was authorized to add one year above the high school work beginning in 1928-1929 and another year in 1929-1930.*

Some questioned the move to junior college status; however, the school had little choice, because to do nothing would probably have meant the closing of the school.

On May 2, 1928 Boiling Springs High School closed its twenty-first year and its last exclusively as a high school. Over 5,000 students had enrolled in the school and 580 had graduated. As Dedmond, quoting Shakespeare, wrote, "This was a time of such sweet sorrow." The associations that had sponsored the high school could continue to be proud of the school that they had founded and nourished for over twenty years.

Now was time for the associations and churches to reflect on the past but to also realize that the high school was being phased out to be succeeded by the college. In 1928 probably no one envisioned anything in the future of the school except as a junior college. But these associations and their churches nurtured well. Wordsworth said, "The child is the father of the man." Certainly this high school was the father of the junior college, the senior college, and now the university.

In reflection, the high school, its faculty, students and supporting institutions belonged in some ways to their own time. Most of the students came from small towns or rural areas, at first, primarily from Cleveland County and surrounding counties. The students were probably more directly related to the church than is the typical modern American student. Many had grown up in a home in which parental discipline was expected and the nuclear family was more likely to be intact. The divorce rate was very low in the early twentieth century. There were fewer distractions - no radios, televisions; movies were rare and not always tolerated. Students were expected to read and study.

There are enough stories about behavior problems in the early history of the school; students pulled

many pranks and could be very mischievous. Yet it seems that the discipline which they had known in the home caused many to have a rather clear concept of right and wrong. Most parents expected their children to go to school to learn and to behave.

While most of the students in the high school period were the same age as typical high school students today, some of them were older and therefore more mature. This was particularly true of the males enrolled. Some of these males were older students who felt called to the Christian ministry while others were simply people who lived in the area and wanted to avail themselves of the opportunity to get a good education.

Because these students were from rural and small towns does not mean that they did not have the ability to learn or did not learn. Many were well read and knowledgeable.

In *Born at the Crossroads*, O.P. Hamrick wrote, "The students had been more brilliant than you could expect from a local high school, because they had been drawn from a number of different communities and most of them really wanted to learn. One group of seniors had fifteen out of a class of twenty who made grades of 90 or above. The grades of the valedictorian and the salutatorian of that class were between 98 and 99, and the major difference was so small that the faculty had difficulty determining the difference. Carrie Wright, who barely topped the record of Rinda Goode, would make 99 and cry because she didn't make 100. Both of these honor students, as well as others, went on to lead in their college classes and distinguished themselves as medical doctors, lawyers, ministers, teachers, writers, business people, and in many other professions."

An early catalog noted, "Not only have its graduates had no difficulty in entering higher institutions of learning, but many have brilliant records at both state and denominational schools in this state and other states."

While most of the students were serious about their studies, they also had a sense of humor. In an issue of the Kalarathea Literary Society publication, there were these "bits" of humor:

Miss Curtis: "Wilma, you must not play the piano today. Have you not heard of the death of one of our old students?"

Wilma: "Oh, yes, I just intended to play the black keys."

A story in four words: "Cram"
"Exam"
"Flunk"
"Trunk"

The faculty members during the high school era were intelligent people but by today's standards were not highly educated. Throughout much of the high school era, the highest degree held by most of the faculty was an A.B. degree. This would have been true of other church-supported high schools as well as the developing state high schools. Members of the faculty were concerned with being Christian teachers and took very seriously their commitment to Christian education.

Some background on early teacher training and certification in North Carolina should help explain the situation. Teachers in North Carolina in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were often bi-vocational ministers or other persons who were interested in education and wanted to teach to elevate the level of learning. Some teachers in the developing public schools were only high school graduates who became certified by attending summer sessions. Throughout much of the twentieth century, a person could teach in the public schools of this state without being a college graduate.

Often principals of the high school had little if any more formal education than other members of the faculty. Degrees were not the top priority for the principals. Though J.D. Huggins had only an A. B. degree, he was a dedicated, concerned, and effective Christian principal, as were others who held the job.

In studying the biographies of the original Board of Trustees of the high school and biographies throughout the high school period, one is struck by the emphasis that was given to having trustees who were dedicated Christian men. Some of these men had a limited formal education, although there were doctors, lawyers, and other well-educated people on the original Board of Trustees. Statements such as the following were used to describe some of the original Trustees of the school: J.F. Alexander was known by his friends as a real Christian; J.C. Bridges was a deacon and leader in the church; J.H. Hamrick was religious-minded and raised a fine family of sober boys.

With Christian students, teachers, principals, and trustees, the high school sought to be a Christian

school. While no person or institution can ever attain completely the standards set by Christ, this high school was to be congratulated on searching diligently for Christian truth in a good academic setting.

It is difficult to choose for discussion only one or two students from the high school who had great success in their chosen fields. Many graduates of the high school might be included, but two who were singularly gifted and accomplished much in their respective fields were Wilbur J. Cash and Dr. Dewey Whitaker.

Wilbur J. Cash was born in Gaffney, SC on May 2, 1900. In 1912, his family moved to Boiling Springs next door to his grandfather, D.J. Hamrick, who was the first mayor of Boiling Springs. The move to Boiling Springs was a significant milestone in the life of Cash, not only because he was now near his relatives but also because living in Boiling Springs enabled him to attend Boiling Springs High School. Cash was an avid reader, and his voracious appetite for reading was in evidence during his attendance at the school. It has been reported that Cash may have read every book in the school library. This does not belittle the size of the library, which was said to have many holdings for its time, but attests to the broad intellectual interests of Cash. Cash as a student gave the commencement speech at Boiling Springs High School on April 18, 1917.

After a brief enrollment at Wofford College in South Carolina and Valparaiso University in Northern Indiana, Cash's formal education continued at Wake Forest College. While at Wake Forest, he became absorbed in the study of the South. This fascination was eventually to lead to the publication in 1941 of his classic work, *The Mind of the South*. Some of the book was written in the old post office building in Boiling Springs (now a dry cleaning establishment on South Main Street). Other parts were written in Shelby and Charlotte. Newspaperman Jay Jenkins, son of Rev. J.L. Jenkins, long-time pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church (1927-1952), in an article several years ago tells of how he and other boys threw rocks at the old post office building to scare Cash. The boys thought Cash to be odd, because he spent so much time alone while writing.

The Mind of the South defies classification as a book of history, sociology, political science, philosophy, or any narrow discipline. Cash in many ways was an artist who used his insight to paint in broad strokes a picture of the South. Professor Joseph Morrison states in his biography of Cash, *W. J. Cash, Southern Prophet*, "There is not an interval in Cash's entire adult life

The High School Years

when he was not reading, writing, questioning, probing, or pondering the South's infinite variety, and especially its wrongheaded myth-making." The writing of the book intrigued Cash, but at the same time it was a task that burdened him immensely. Because of his health problems there were many delays in completing the book. Alfred Knopf, his New York publisher, was a great admirer of Cash's writing and admitted candidly that his interest in the book was more than commercial. He wrote, "When I first saw the manuscript, I knew nothing else like it had ever been done. That's why we published it without any indication that it would be a money maker ... It's a great book in every respect. We're proud to be the publisher." (*Charlotte Observer*, July 10, 1977, Sec. C., "The Mind of a Southerner".)

In the same issue, C.A. McKnight made the following comment: "Cash's epochal work is still must-reading for anyone who wants to understand the South and Southerners. No one will ever be able to measure precisely the book's influence on the

sweeping changes that have taken place in the South since 1941. But it has been substantial."

C. Vann Woodward, the Sterling professor-emeritus of history at Yale University, wrote, "No other book on Southern history rivals Cash's influence among laymen and few among professional historians." John Hope Franklin, the James B. Duke professor of history-emeritus at Duke University, said Cash's book changed his life. "I never write a word without thinking of *The Mind of the South*." Paul Escott wrote, "He drew on many fields to create a portrait of the South that encompassed all key aspects of human experience." (*Old Gold and Black*, Wake Forest University, February, 1991.)

Cash, partly as a result of the success of *The Mind of the South* won a Guggenheim Award on March 12, 1941 for the purpose of writing another book, a novel. He moved with his wife of a few weeks to Mexico City soon after the publication of *The Mind of the South*. Cash, according to his biographers, became obsessed with the idea that the German Nazis were planning



1908-1909 High School Faculty

1st Row: Mary Clark Pitts Duncan, F.A. Brown, Baylus Cade, J.D. Huggins, Bessie Atkins Huggins
2nd Row: Myrtle Dodson Taylor, Mildred McLean Milan, Alma Smith Griffin, T.N. Farris
(Picture furnished by Virginia Huggins Gault, granddaughter of J.D. and Bessie Huggins.)

Chapter 2

to kill him. He had correctly predicted much of Hitler's rise to power and was extremely upset with the gains of the Nazis in Europe.

Wilbur Cash was a brilliant man who suffered at times from emotional problems. His own mental health, made worse by the world situation in 1941, troubled Cash immensely. He had shown hesitancy about attempting another book. His bride reported that Cash had difficulty concentrating on his work and became more obsessed with the perception of a Nazi threat. Cash was found dead in a Mexican hotel room. His death was ruled a suicide.

Another graduate of Boiling Springs High School, with a distinguished although totally different career, was Dr. Dewey Whitaker. At the time of his death on August 31, 1960, Dr. Whitaker was president of Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. He was born in Ellenboro, Rutherford County, NC and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vol Whitaker. He attended Boiling Springs High School, received a B.A. degree from Wake Forest University in 1927, an M.A. degree from University of North Carolina in 1930, and a Ph.D. from New York University in 1935. Dr. Whitaker also held four honorary degrees: Doctor of Laws, from Lafayette College in 1946; Doctor of Science from Wake Forest University and Moravian College in

1947, and Doctor of Laws from Rutgers University in 1948.

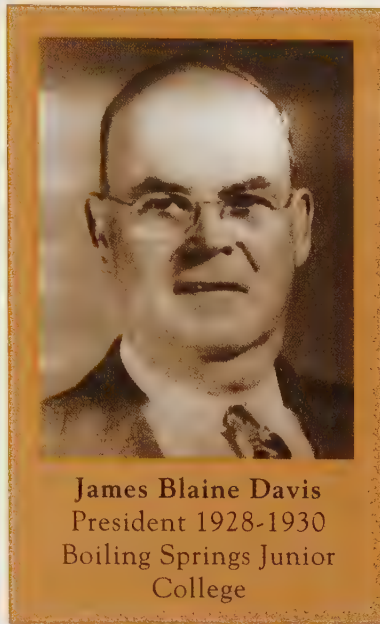
Dr. Whitaker was one of the nation's leading nuclear physicists and was closely associated with the Atomic Energy program from its inception until June 1, 1946 when he accepted the presidency of Lehigh University.

In his position at the Clinton Laboratories, Oak Ridge, TN, he guided the development of plutonium through its early stages and on to its climax at Hiroshima. He left Clinton Laboratories well on the way toward the development of the first peace-time atomic energy power plant. Dr. Whitaker was a trustee of the American University in Beirut; a trustee of St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, PA and a director of the United Gas Improvement Company. Dr. Whitaker returned to the Gardner-Webb campus in November of 1959 to deliver the alumni address at a Founders Day and Homecoming Convocation. Dr. Phil Elliott presented Dr. Whitaker, president of Lehigh University at the time, with an alumni citation for distinguished service. In his address to the alumni, Dr. Whitaker remarked that it was hard to recognize the campus in 1957 as evolving from the campus which he remembered as a high school student.



Literary societies during the high school period

Boiling Springs Junior College And The Depression Years



On the third day of September 1928, Boiling Springs Junior College opened its first session. The crash on Wall Street was less than fourteen months away; farm economy was already suffering. Had supporters of the school foreseen the coming of the Great Depression and all the problems looming in the 1930s, they might have lost heart. But the loyal Baptists of the area had made a step from which they would not retreat. To turn back could have meant the death of the school. Struggle often produces strength; the economic struggles of the College, in periods of its history, helped foster a love and appreciation that lived beyond each crisis to make for a stronger school. Rev. James Blaine Davis, a graduate of Mars Hill College, Wake Forest College, the University of North Carolina, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, was Boiling Springs Junior College's first president. Dr. Davis came to Boiling Springs from a pastorate at Henderson Street Baptist Church in Cleveland, TX. Some years earlier, in 1918-1919, he had served as an instructor at North Carolina State College and for four years, 1919-1923, he was an instructor at the University of North Carolina. (Dedmond, p. 66)

At the Kings Mountain Association meeting, October 1928, the Board of Trustees referred to Davis as:

... a young man with striking personality, a profound scholar, and exponent of Christian education. We believe we have in Dr. Davis a president worthy of the highest esteem of our people and whom we shall be glad to follow. Under his able leadership and by the co-operation of his true and tried co-workers, we believe Boiling Springs Junior College will have a great future.

Speaking at that meeting, J.C. Black presented the messengers with reasons why Baptists must continue to support schools. At one point Mr. Black asked, "What kind of predicament would we be in if our state schools undertook to teach religion? What kind of religion would be taught? Would it be Jewish, Protestant, or Catholic?" He added, "Denominational schools, if they are

conducted as they should be, are those in which the principles of Christianity are taught. Every teacher must be a loyal Christian and must live such a life that the students may follow in his or her footsteps with all safety."

As he settled into his duties President Davis began identifying with the various constituencies of the school. At the Kings Mountain Baptist Association in 1929, he presented Prof. J.D. Huggins, who had become Dean of the College. Before the messengers, these two men pledged each other their loyalty and cooperation in carrying forward the work of the institution. (Dedmond, p. 67)

The recognition of Prof. Huggins, along with others who had been the pillars of the high school, had the effect of bridging the high school and college eras during the transition period. Some others who served from one era into the next were Etta Curtis as Dean of Women, O.P. Hamrick and Horace Hammett as teachers of English, Mrs. J.D. Huggins as teacher of Latin, and Mrs. Lillian Ritch as dietitian. (Dedmond, p. 67)

The College began with seven departments: English, mathematics, natural science, foreign language, social science, Bible, and education. One of the requirements for an "Associate in Letters" diploma was to submit a thesis of at least 2,500 words on a subject approved by the professor in whose department it was written. (Dedmond, p. 67.)

The school's *Alma Mater* was written by Mr. and Mrs. Horace G. Hammett in 1928. Horace Hammett first came to the high school in 1920 as a student and

played in that first kick-and-gouge football game with Gaffney High School. Mr. Hammett later became the College's first athletic coach in several sports.

While both were teaching at Boiling Springs Junior College, Horace Hammett teamed with a young woman, who later became his wife, in writing the school song. She was then Miss Lorene Woody, a native of Woodsdale, NC who was chairman of the Department of Music.

At the Alumni Banquet on May 13, 1972, Horace Hammett was named Gardner-Webb Alumnus of the Year. He confided, "She wrote the music, and I composed the lyrics, but we argued so over the thing until she once told me to get out and not come back to see her any more." At the banquet the Hammetts formally presented Gardner-Webb with the original copy of the school song, written in pencil on both sides of a sheet of paper; paper was hard to come by in those days. The manuscript has been preserved in glass.

Mr. Hammett served South Carolina Baptists as assistant secretary-treasurer for eleven years, and after 1961 served as secretary-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of South Carolina. In an interview some years ago, he fondly remembered Prof. J.D. Huggins. He explained how Mr. Huggins, as principal, came to see him about his application while he was working in a cornfield at his father's home in Cherokee County, SC. Mr. Hammett recalled, "He gave me an opportunity to attend school, and I will always remember him as a fine spirit reaching out to poor youth and giving them an education."

While the *Alma Mater* was written in the very first year of the junior college, it has remained as the official school song for both senior college and university. The song is sung at graduation exercises and at convocation programs at the beginning of the school year. The words begin:

*At the foot of the mountains is our college proud
she stands serving all who want her service,
blessing all with out-stretched hands.*

Clearly portrayed is a philosophy of the school.

When the College sought accreditation from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, the State Department advised that the school operate for a while before seeking evaluation. The state office pointed out that the college facilities needed much improvement. This was no news to college officials, who were all too well aware of a list of needs, including:

1. *A new or remodeled building with modern classrooms and modern equipment*
2. *An adequate library facility*
3. *More endowment and liquidation of existing debt*

Without improvements and accreditation, the school would be unlikely to attract new students and the old ones might not return.

Meanwhile, changes were occurring in the faculty and administration. In 1929 both Prof. and Mrs. Huggins resigned, due to a misunderstanding over credentials. President Davis had received a letter from the State Department of Public Instruction indicating that Prof. Huggins, because he did not have an M.A. degree, should not serve as a department chair. Six weeks before, in a letter from President Davis dated April 26, 1929, Mr. Huggins had been officially notified that the trustees had elected him Dean of the College and Head of the Department of Mathematics. Apparently there was no deception but some misunderstanding between the parties involved. Prof. Huggins, informed of the problem, wrote to President Davis that he felt that if he were to continue to teach in the College, he would have to continue graduate study at the expense of his health. But as Dedmond states, "Even then Professor Huggins' thoughts were of the school. Two teachers, he pointed out, could perhaps be employed on his salary of \$2200 and certainly three could be hired on his salary and that of Mrs. Huggins." (Dedmond, p. 70.)

Mr. Huggins resigned and became the principal of the public school at Mooresboro, NC, five miles from Boiling Springs. But after an interim of one year, on May 5, 1930, Prof. J.D. Huggins was elected dean of the College and made principal of the high school. Evidently the problem with the State Department of Public Instruction had been resolved.

At the same time, the College was being studied by the State Department and on May 15, 1930 Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, Director of the Division of School Instruction, wrote Chairman J.H. Quinn of the Board of Trustees to inform him of the decision of the college rating board on May 12. Boiling Springs Junior College had been given a conditional rating as a standard junior college for the year 1929-1930. (Dedmond, p. 71.) This was based partially on an evaluation letter that Dr. Highsmith had received from Chairman Quinn, explaining the arrangement whereby the necessary income for the College would be secured for the 1930-1931 session. The school was

Boiling Springs Junior College And The Depression Years

to be inspected during the next semester and a positive report would remove the conditional approval. (Dedmond, p. 71.)

President James B. Davis resigned early in 1930, his resignation to become effective on May 20, 1930. Some insight was given into his situation by O.P. Hamrick in *Born at the Crossroads*. Mr. Hamrick had continued a close relationship with the faculty and administration of the College. At the time of Mr. Davis' resignation, Mr. Hamrick was principal of the Boiling Springs public school. Since there were no public high school buildings in the Boiling Springs area for the state high school and the enrollment in the new junior college was low, the state high school was using the buildings and facilities of the College. Mr. Hamrick was also teaching English for the College. During the year of President Davis' resignation, according to Mr. Hamrick, opposition to Davis became pronounced among the faculty. Mr. Hamrick wrote that in chapel President Davis "raved" about his worries, seemingly in hopes of getting sympathy. One comment was, "I have cried enough for my tears to fill a wash pan." Mr. Hamrick felt that instead of enlisting sympathy for President Davis from the faculty and students, his lamentations seemed to show his weakness. Some members of the faculty, Mr. Hamrick felt, came to resent his complaining and think of it as a sign of his inefficiency as an administrator. (Hamrick, p. 82.)

Principals of the high school had wrestled with the school's financial problems. The first college president fared no better. While some of the economic woes were unique to the Boiling Springs school, all institutions of learning in the country were affected by the Depression, beginning with the stock market crash in 1929.

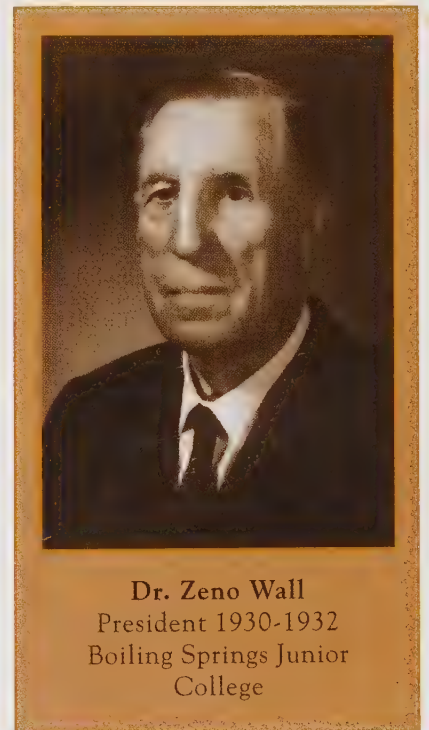
For a school in transition, the problems were multiplied. The move to junior college level meant more money was needed to employ teachers with M.A. degrees to head departments; to provide more equipment, especially for the science department, and to expand the library. At the same time, the enrollment in 1929-1930 was seventy-eight college students and 124 academic and special students who were variously classified. Costs were going up, the number of students was below what it had been in some years as a high school, and the country was experiencing economic disaster. Perhaps Dr. Davis' torrential "tears" were justified.

Relationships between the College and area churches and their supporting associations had been

close throughout the school's history. A new type of relationship developed in the 1930s when two pastors from the area served as president of the College.

Dr. Zeno Wall, who became interim president on May 5, 1930 was pastor of First Baptist Church in Shelby from 1925-1948. Dr. Wall had taken a positive stand in discussion of the junior college concept for years before the plan became fact. At the Kings Mountain Associational meeting in 1926, Dr. Wall presented a resolution that the association "endorse and approve the recommendation of the Board of Trustees for Boiling Springs High School looking toward making it a junior college." At the 1929 associational meeting, Dr. Wall in encouraging support for the school by the association and churches declared, "Brethren, the leaders cannot go alone. You will have to go with them, pray with them, sacrifice with them, and devote a portion of your time and give a definite amount each year to the support of the school."

Dr. Wall was born August 20, 1882 in Rutherford County, NC. An adult before deciding to enter the ministry, he was ordained July 8, 1908 by the Cliffside Baptist Church. According to Grace Hamrick, he evidently wrestled with the call to preach for some time. The story is that J.H. Hamrick, one of the original trustees, was a close observer of people. He went to Dr. Wall, who was then a bookkeeper at Cliffside, and asked, "Aren't you called to preach?" Dr. Wall reportedly said, "Well, I have been wrestling with it some. How did you know?" The answer was, "I have been watching you." Wall attended Mars Hill College and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1917 Mississippi College honored him with a Doctor of Divinity degree. (History



of First Baptist Church, Shelby, Grace Hamrick and Hubbard Hamrick.)

During the Depression year of 1930, the same year that Dr. Wall became president of the College, literally hundreds of people walked the streets of Shelby seeking work after the banks and mills had closed. At Christmas 1930, a "White Christmas" brought food, clothing and money to the church with which Dr. Wall and Horace Easom, minister of education and music, "fed the hungry and clothed the naked."

In some respects as Charles Dickens said of another period, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times..."

The Shelby church grew from 600 to 2,600 members, and he realized three noteworthy objectives he set before the church at the beginning of his ministry: first, the erection and equipping of a church building adequate for 1000 Sunday School members; second, that great, earlier-mentioned revival, which was led by Dr. George W. Truett; and third, four-year status for Gardner-Webb College, which the college trustees voted to request of the North Carolina Baptist State convention the day Wall died.

His influence extended beyond his community and his denomination into the halls of government as he led the inaugural prayers for two of North Carolina's governors, O. Max Gardner and Clyde R. Hoey, both from Shelby.

His influence and example are being carried on by many ministers and lay workers who worshiped in his Shelby congregations. Four of these became college presidents: Dr. E. Eugene Poston, president of Gardner-Webb College; Dr. Hoyt Blackwell, president of Mars Hill College; Dr. Anthony Gillespie, for a time president of a seminary and school in China; and Dr. Andy Tate, president of William Carey College in Mississippi. (*from History of First Baptist Church, Shelby*)

Dr. Wall authored three books: *Heartening Messages*, *Verities of the Gospel*, and *A Day for God-called Men*.

As important as any of his other accomplishments, Dr. Wall played a significant role in keeping Boiling Springs Junior College afloat during perilous times in the school's history. Not only did he serve as president, but at other times he served on boards and committees of the school. While serving as interim president of the College and pastor of First Baptist Church, Dr. Wall continued to live in Shelby and made visits out to the College. It was difficult for him or other interim presidents to know the specifics of the

operation of the school. On one campus visit, President Wall questioned Hubert Dixon: "Young man, is this your first year?" Dixon responded dryly, "No, Dr. Wall, I've been here before." "Then you'll finish this year," said the acting president. "No," replied Professor Dixon, "I've just joined the faculty."

Boiling Springs Junior College's refusal to die in this period can be attributed to men such as Rev. Zeno Wall, Rev. J. L. Jenkins, Rev. J. W. Suttle, E. B. Hamrick, and many other supporters. Despite this support these were truly very hard times for the institution. Parents had little money with which to pay school expenses for their children because cotton was bringing only five cents a pound. No one could easily sell farm products, and those who wanted such products had no money with which to buy them. (Washburn, p. 138)

Life was hard for the students and faculty, but it is doubtful that students, and perhaps faculty, realized how difficult it actually was. Meals were not as sumptuous as some expected, and students did not hide their unhappiness. With such limited funds it required daily miracles to put any food at all on the table. The students joked, "You can tell when we are going to have turnip greens. They always serve them the day after the hedges are trimmed."

For breakfast, grits, bread, and molasses were standard except for the sometimes absence of one of these items. Certain regularly available foods appeared with amazing frequency. Liver mush, one of the items, was served in every manner imaginable. Its abundance rested on a contract with the family manufacturing it. They were sending their children through college on livermush. Livermush at times was served with molasses. (*Biblical Recorder*, April 13, 1974)

There was, however, some good news. The three Baptist associations were told in the fall of 1930 that the College had met all the standard requirements regarding physical equipment and faculty qualifications and that every department was headed by a teacher holding a Master's degree or its equivalent. The churches were urged by the trustees to continue their support of the school through regular contributions. They also recommended "That the respective associations endorse the movement to encourage farmers to plant and cultivate one acre of cotton for the use and benefit of Boiling Springs Junior College." Another interesting but logical request in a rural society was that the women contribute chickens for the purpose of procuring books for the library.



1930 Football State Champs

Sitting, left to right – Wall, quarterback; Cooley, guard; Harrison, tackle; Moore (captain), guard; Faulkenberg, tackle; Vaughn, guard; Forney, end. Kneeling, left to right – McCraw, end; Hendrick, half back; Stroud, half back; Boney, half back; Scarborough, full back; Hunt, tackle; Jolly, center. Standing, left to right – Rackley, coach; Waters, guard; Hemby, sub; Mullinax, center; Wall, sub; Bridges, end; Lattimore, sub; Falls, manager.

Despite these sacrificial efforts, the early depression years saw the College struggle along with an ever-increasing load of debt reaching approximately \$20,000 by 1932. (Washburn, p. 136.) Though financial problems plagued the school the football teams did amazingly well during the College's early history. Boiling Springs Junior College claimed the state football title in 1930 with an unbeaten record and was scored upon only once. Because of the bad financial situation, football was discontinued during the 1931 school year. However, in 1933 the school again won the North Carolina state Junior College Championship with an 8-0-1 record. The team won its final game over Oak Ridge, 25-14, on Thanksgiving Day at the old Shelby High School field on Sumter Street.

Following Dr. Zeno Wall, Rev. J.L. Jenkins, pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church from 1927-1952, became interim president on March 23, 1932. Rev. Jenkins, according to Dedmond, made it clear to the Trustees that he would accept the presidency only on a temporary basis and that he would receive no salary, only traveling expenses. This was the same agreement under which Dr. Wall had served.

Rev. Jenkins was a native of Stanly County, NC and attended the public schools there. After graduating

from Wake Forest College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he held a number of pastorates before becoming pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church in 1927. Before entering the Christian ministry, Rev. Jenkins had worked as a barber. Rev. Jenkins, when not in the pulpit, had a slight stutter. However, when he preached, the stuttering was gone; and he spoke eloquently. Rev. Jenkins explained from the pulpit at Boiling Springs that he would go into the woods and preach to the trees and the birds as he was overcoming his stuttering problem.

A *Shelby Daily Star* news article of November 11, 1950 stated, "J.L. Jenkins has been a buoyant part of rural Christianity in North Carolina." Rev. Jenkins was described as a man of simple goodness, moving quietly but strongly through the lives of hundreds of students trained by the College while he served as chaplain, teacher, and on two occasions as president of the school, 1932-1935, and for a few months in 1939 between the presidencies of George Burnett and J.R. Cantrell. Rev. Jenkins served as President of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and preached the Convention sermon at Durham in 1950.

At various times, while pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church, Rev. Jenkins taught during week days at other educational institutions, including Fruitland



1929 Women's Basketball team

Back row, left to right – Lola Davis, unidentified, unidentified, Gweadolyn Doggett, Mozelle Gold, Lucille Packard, Vida Price, Front row, left to right – unidentified, Jane Irvin, unidentified, Lillian McIntyre, Unidentified, Unidentified, Unidentified

Baptist Institute. It was estimated that for years Rev. Jenkins reached at least 10,000 people weekly, through the one hundred mountain and piedmont pastors that he taught at Fruitland in six-week sessions, autumn and spring.

Because of their love, respect, and appreciation of Rev. Jenkins, his "preacher boys" began the J.L. Jenkins Memorial Library for rural pastors. This collection, housed in the John R. Dover Memorial Library on the Gardner-Webb campus, was started as a spontaneous gift from a Washington resident who had been a student of Rev. Jenkins when he was president of Boiling Springs Junior College. The real beginning of the movement to establish this collection probably dates back to the late 1920s. In those days, many of the students who aspired to preach were seemingly equipped with a religious fervor, but, as one observer noted, with little training in Bible study and preaching.

That fact was brought home to Rev. Jenkins when one night in the late 1920s he heard a group of the ministerial students interceding for him with loud prayers, because he occasionally attended a baseball game in Shelby. According to an article in a Greensboro newspaper in 1962, the next day Rev.

Jenkins began instructing the young preachers in homiletics and scripture interpretation. His classroom was wherever he happened to be - in his home, in the boys' rooms, or on a bench under a campus tree. Most of the young preachers were supply pastors at rural churches, and Rev. Jenkins helped them form sermon outlines. It was not unusual, Rev. Jenkins recalled, to read on Monday that the same subject had been used in several different churches the same Sunday by his students. The size of the classes soon outgrew the outdoor locations, so the College inaugurated the homiletics and general Bible course with Rev. Jenkins as the teacher.

At the time Rev. Jenkins was president of the College and pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church, the church was located on the site of the present Dover Chapel with the sanctuary facing South Main Street. During his twenty-five years as pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church, the church received by baptism an average of twenty-five each year making the baptisms by Rev. Jenkins some 625. Approximately the same number was added by letter. Many college students during this period came under the "watchcare" of Boiling Springs Baptist Church.



Whether preaching or teaching the Bible, Rev. Jenkins had a very keen memory. However, in everyday events, he, like O.P. Hamrick, was somewhat absent-minded. Many stories are well-known to people in the Boiling Springs area about Rev. Jenkins and his "pre-occupations." He was known to have

forgotten at least one wedding and one funeral while serving as pastor. A classic story tells of his catching a ride home from the Boiling Springs Drug Store (at the traffic signal) with Herman Howington, a Boiling Springs resident. In passing the church, Mr. Howington commented that there were cars at the church, which reminded Rev. Jenkins that he was supposed to be conducting a wedding.

His absent-mindedness did not extend to the pulpit. Rev. Jenkins preached wonderfully-outlined sermons without any notes. Few knew the Bible by chapter and verse better than Rev. Jenkins. As a token of their appreciation and love for their retiring pastor, members of Boiling Springs Baptist Church observed J.L. Jenkins Day on May 11, 1952.

Several years before his death, his vision declining, Rev. Jenkins was conducting a Bible study in his home. He asked his daughter Betty Jenkins Washburn to read a particular passage from the Bible. She read a passage, but Rev. Jenkins said that was not the passage he had asked for. It was soon realized that he had given the right chapter and verse, but she had read another passage.

Because of the geographical proximity to the campus and the support of the Baptist High School and the Junior College by the Boiling Springs Baptist Church, there was a "we" feeling in the relationship between the church and school that was unique.

Boiling Springs Baptist Church has for many years included the College in its budget. At times this church sacrificed in order to help the College.

During the administrations of Blaine Davis, Zeno Wall, and J.L. Jenkins, the school was kept alive by the churches and interested families. One of the families giving significant support was that of E. B. Hamrick. According to Dedmond, in the financially-troubled 1930s, the school would probably have closed had it not been for E. B. Hamrick. Dedmond explains that Mr. Hamrick on one occasion marked \$1,400 off his books - the amount that the College owed him. For almost one year he fed the student body free of charge.

As stated earlier, the surname Hamrick is a prominent name in the Boiling Springs area. Charles Jefferson (C.J.) Hamrick returned to Cleveland County after the War between the States. His son Elijah Bly Hamrick had grown into an active young boy during his absence. C.J. Hamrick started working the land, and as time passed, his thoughts turned to opening a general store to serve the people of the rural western part of the county.

In 1875, a decade after the Civil War, C. J. Hamrick opened C.J. Hamrick and Sons, in Boiling Springs, the first general store in Cleveland County. Editor Bob Young in the April 22, 1987 edition of *The Clipper* wrote, "Mr. C.J. was not immediately overrun by customers. He installed a big bell on a post outside the little store so that the people could call him in from the field to make a purchase."

Young Elijah (E.B.) grew up learning his father's business and took over operation of the store in 1918 after his father passed away. The business continued to grow and a larger store building was constructed in which was sold dry goods, groceries, and appliances. Later Mr. Hamrick built a cotton gin and developed a John Deere dealership. Larger and more successful than most country stores of the period, the store was designed to meet the needs of farm families in the western Cleveland County area. The high school, junior college and C. J. Hamrick's Store were organized and grew together. Administrators and other school personnel often went to E. B. Hamrick for financial help, encouragement, and advice. In 1909 E.B. Hamrick, for whom a major building on campus is named, became the first bursar of the school. He served as a trustee and gave land for the development of the campus. He also served on numerous committees of the school as did his son



E.B. Hamrick
Boiling Springs Merchant
and college benefactor.
(Picture furnished by Ann
Hamrick Elliott)

Clifford Hamrick and other members of the E. B. Hamrick family. C. E. (Clifford) Hamrick, was a long time trustee and fund raiser for the school. Mr. Clifford enjoyed telling stories about his delivering groceries to Boiling Springs High School. He recalled in a *Shelby Daily Star* article that at first he would

deliver groceries using a wagon and mule and that the first truck was the lengthened frame of a Ford car with a bed. Anyone who knew Clifford Hamrick knows that he talked loudly. One interesting story is that his father (E. B.) was behind the store one day and heard Clifford talking. When told that his son was talking to someone in Atlanta, Georgia, E. B. responded, "Why doesn't he use the telephone?"

The 1937 yearbook of the school was dedicated to E. B. Hamrick:

Time covers monuments of bronze with patina and shafts of marble with mould but the monument a man builds for himself is a well-lived life shining with an ineradicable glory in the faces of youth and in the hearts of his friends. So to you Mr. Hamrick whose life has been vital for thirty years to the on going of Boiling Springs College as a Trustee, and friend, we dedicate this volume. We honor you for your Christian manhood and brotherhood, for your unselfish devotion to a larger life of the world about you.

Despite the efforts of many, the school continued to have financial problems. At their January 1933 meeting, the Trustees appointed Miss Etta Curtis as alumni secretary at a yearly salary of \$300 and room and board. Miss Curtis, who had served the school

so faithfully for so long in so many capacities, now began her duties to raise money for the school. Old-timers around Boiling Springs say Miss Curtis went by buggy about the community soliciting support to keep the school operating. Reports are that she borrowed the horse and buggy from E. B. Hamrick. Prof. Huggins, though in ill health, had returned as principal of the high school division. But on April 19, 1932 Mr. Huggins died. O.P. Hamrick in *Born at the Crossroads* said of him:

Professor Huggins had many outstanding qualities. He was an interesting speaker, had a keen sense of humor, could mingle easily in all strata of society, had a loveable disposition, was humble yet highly respected and was greatly loved by the entire student body. He was always calm and deliberate in handling disciplinary problems. Whenever possible he governed by reasoning with the students; but if one showed himself incorrigible, he was firm in administering punishment in keeping with the offense.

(Hamrick, p.52)

Early the next month, May 3, 1932, the Trustees adopted another resolution:

The Board of Trustees of Boiling Springs Junior College, in recognition of a quarter of a century of distinguished and sacrificial service by Professor James Dwyre Huggins, Sr., to the High School and the College and through them to the general interest of Christian education, and service for Christ and humanity to both the regions at home and abroad, ever mindful of his noble deeds, unselfish spirit, charming personality, broad intellect, unimpeachable character, kindly sympathetic heart and broad vision of life, desire to give expression to and to publish abroad their cherished memory of his great spirit and to bear testimony to his noble life's achievement.

One of Huggins' daughters, Mrs. Rachel Hedrick, still lives in Boiling Springs. She recently commented that her father was very lovable, that when he was ready to discipline, he would make the person sit down and he would look the person straight in the eye. She added that her father gave the people of Boiling Springs and surrounding areas much credit for the school's existence and development.

Boiling Springs Junior College And The Depression Years

Former students of J.D. Huggins have many recollections of their teacher. One of the graduates in the last high school graduating class, in 1928, was the late Dr. John C. Hamrick, well-known surgeon in Shelby, NC. Dr. Hamrick was a resident of Boiling Springs. He graduated from Wake Forest College, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, and the University of Maryland. Dr. Hamrick described Prof. Huggins as a wonderful person who had many good qualities including the quality of diligence.

The money shortage continued to be worrisome. During the school year 1932-1933, the school contracted with the teachers to run the College on the condition that teachers pay all the expenses for food, books, supplies, heat, water, and lights and then accept for their own pay what was left from fees and gifts. (Washburn, p. 138.)

There were at least two occasions in the 1930s when trustees made motions to close the school. Each time finances were the major problem. Once, in 1932, when the College was only four years old, food was scarce, teachers could not be paid, and the struggling little college was burdened with a \$20,000 indebtedness. (Washburn, p.136.)

According to Dr. Washburn, at one meeting when a motion had been made to close the school, Trustee chairman Rev. John Suttle kept the question open for discussion hour after hour. Finally at 4:00 A.M., when the Trustees' wives were frantically phoning to learn the whereabouts of their husbands, the Board voted to keep the school open one more year. Only one vote prevented the school from closing. Rev. Suttle said he had a feeling the Lord had changed somebody's mind during the long discussions; at last he had felt it safe to call for the vote.

In 1936 according to Washburn (p.136), the forces working for the closing of the school were not only poverty but the State Board of Education itself. In May 1936, through its spokesman, Dr. J. Henry Highsmith, the State Board of Education sent an ultimatum to the College to either meet the standards or close its doors. Again problems such as no stable income, inadequate library and low salaries for teachers were cited.

On March 7, 1935 President J.L. Jenkins submitted his resignation to the Executive Committee of the Trustees, asking that he be relieved of his duties as interim president at the close of the academic year. While all the reasons for his resignation at that time are not known, it could not have been unexpected. Rev. Jenkins insisted that his appointment was to be

temporary and that he was not to be paid. He was full-time pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church which was growing, and he must have realized that the College needed a full-time president.

Arsola Crawford (A.C.) Lovelace served as president for one year, 1935-1936. President Lovelace served without pay as had his immediate predecessors. He also inherited the financial woes of the school with which these presidents had wrestled. At the time he became president, Mr. Lovelace was not an ordained minister and had little income. A.C. Lovelace was a native of Rutherford County and was forty-five years of age at the time he became the College president. Mr. Lovelace attended Wake Forest College, 1912-1916, graduating *Magna Cum Laude*. Upon graduation from Wake Forest, he was invited to teach English at Coker College.

Mr. Lovelace enlisted in the Army after two years at Coker. He married Maude Lee White and moved to Henrietta, NC to become elementary principal. After serving as principal, he served as superintendent of Henrietta, Caroleen, and Avondale Schools. His next position was that of superintendent of Mills Home, North Carolina Baptist Children's Home. While at Mills Home, Dr. Zeno Wall urged him to become president of Boiling Springs Junior College in 1935.

According to one of his sons, Marc, the trustees had promised Lovelace a residence in Boiling Springs, but upon arrival, the house was not available. He moved with his family to Forest City. His son Austin, a student at the College, commuted with his father from Forest City to Boiling Springs each day. Lovelace resigned as college president,



A.C. Lovelace
President 1935-1936
Boiling Springs Junior
College

according to Marc, to seek a position with adequate income to support the family.

After serving one year as president, Lovelace moved with his family to High Point where he joined High Point College as a professor and later moved to Wingate College to become dean and to assist with accreditation. While at High Point, he was ordained as a minister and served as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

President A. C. Lovelace should be included in the list of Christian presidents who kept the school alive during the dark years of the Depression.

In 1936 the school faced one of its worst financial crises. Many despaired, and the College could very easily have closed that year. It had been dropped from the state's accredited list; a special committee agreed that Boiling Springs Junior College could not open that fall unless it was an approved standard junior college.

It was estimated that the College needed at least \$6,000 to operate. In the press of the 1930s, other small colleges were closing, including Linwood, Rutherford, and Weaverville. At one trustee meeting in 1936, B. T. Falls moved that the College suspend operation. The motion received a second from S. H. Austell, but failed to carry. Too many people had put too much time, money, and effort into the school, and too many prayers had been prayed in behalf of the school to let it die.

Dr. Washburn explains somewhat humorously that a factor that may have played some immediate role in the defeat of the motion was that just as the vote was about to be taken, the dietitian, Mrs. Lillian Ritch, called the Board to dinner. They went downstairs and dined sumptuously upon cabbage, cornbread, and buttermilk. After coming back to the meeting, they found the group felt much better toward Christian education. (Washburn, p. 144)

The churches were now called upon, as they had been so many times before, for financial support. On June 3, 1936 a meeting to discuss the future of the school involved representatives of the Board, President A.C. Lovelace, Rev. J.L. Jenkins, Rev. Rush Padgett, and E.B. Hamrick, with Dr. Clyde A. Erwin, Dr. James Hillman and Dr. J. Henry Highsmith of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. Out of this meeting came a commitment to secure accreditation. The Trustees agreed to raise \$10,000 through the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Baptist Associations. The same representatives also agreed that five teachers with master's degrees would be employed as heads of five departments and the teacher's salaries

would be raised. (Dedmond, p. 79) A full-time librarian was to be hired on the same salary scale as teachers. It was understood that before the end of the school term 1936-1937, all requirements must be met if the school was to be a standard school. Dedmond points out that no catalog was published in the spring of 1936 on the assumption that the school was going to close. It was not until August 24, 1936 that the Board had a special meeting to consider a new president. No one had recruited students or faculty during the summer.

All the while, classes were meeting and Christian education was being pursued by dedicated teachers. Faith and morals were never neglected in the high school nor the college. In February 1934, the Rev. John Suttle was a member of the faculty committee which prepared articles of faith to be incorporated and appended to the teachers' contracts:

1. *I am opposed to and will exert my influence against any and all forms of amusement that are detrimental to Christian influence and Christian living.*
2. *I shall give my full support to all religious organizations of the college and church.*
3. *I shall seek to create, encourage, and promote a distinctive Christian atmosphere in the college and on the campus.*
4. *I believe the Scripture of the Old Testament to be divinely inspired in totality.*
5. *I believe the New Testament alone as revealing Salvation and as the final authority of all matter of church polity and practice.*
6. *I believe Jesus Christ as revealed in the New Testament to be the Son of God and the Divine Savior of all who truly accept Him as such.*
7. *I believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit, in His quickening power with the Spirit of the unregenerate moving to repentance and acceptance of Jesus as Savior.*
8. *Since Spiritual Redemption was made available by the death, burial, and Resurrection of Jesus, I believe that every regenerate person should symbolize his own salvation by being buried with Him in Baptism.*
9. *I believe the whole Bible to be the Word of God, infallible in authority, regenerate in power, divine in authorship and inexpressible in value.*
(Washburn, p.140-141)

Boiling Springs Junior College And The Depression Years

Santford Martin, Director of Public Relations at the College, wrote in the December 1948 issue of the *Shelby Daily Star*:

According to those who were at the wheel of what some branded a hopeless endeavor at this time (the 1930s), the Cleveland County village institution assumed the form of a ship in a storm and the faculty and the students the form of a loyal crew, but according to those who were on the ship and among the crew, the people involved went about their task of keeping it afloat with the spirit of genuine happiness and the loyalty of determined effort.

Efforts continued to be promoted by John Suttle and others to keep the ties between the College, churches and associations as close as possible. In 1934 the Trustees approved a motion by Rev. Suttle that any church which gave as much as \$100 per year to the expense of the College could select a student from the church who would receive a \$50 scholarship. If the church gave \$50, the student would receive a \$25 scholarship, and if \$25, a \$12.50 scholarship. (Washburn, p.140-141)

There still was no certainty that the school would survive. It was during this time period that a special education committee from Peabody College in Nashville, TN came to the campus to study the needs and facilities of the school. The special delegation said that the school should be closed. Their report was a blow to many supporters of the school, but it just set fire to Preacher Suttle's dander. "Why, if we had planned to close, we wouldn't do it now," Rev. Suttle roared. "Those folks from across the mountains don't know what they are talking about," he said.

At the Sandy Run Association meeting at Green Creek Baptist Church in 1935, the Christian Education Report included the following: "The long years of struggle of Boiling Springs as she emerges from a thought to a high school, and from a high school to a standard junior college is not a swan song but the travail of a great soul seeking to fulfill a God-appointed destiny."

Rev. Suttle continued to support and promote the school. On May 18, 1937 he offered to the Board of Trustees an award to be given by him and his wife. They would give each year a medal to the student showing the best understanding and the greatest advancement in the study of the Bible. Since that year, the medal has been given annually on

Academic Awards Day. For many years, Rev. and Mrs. Suttle attended each of these occasions.

Walter Hicks, secretary to the Board of Trustees from 1932 to 1942, said of Rev. Suttle, "He would never agree that the College should be closed and was always optimistic about its future. He emphatically stated that it should not die, that it was doing a good job for its day and time, especially for the amount of financial support it was receiving." During this period with the Depression and short terms of presidents, Dr. Washburn felt that each time a new man was drafted or persuaded to take the presidency, John Suttle had considerable influence in trying to get the right man and in getting him to work for little or no salary.

The school was continuing to emphasize not only the classroom experience but forensics and other learning activities. A March 1937 edition of the *Shelby Daily Star* reported that the Boiling Springs Junior College Forensic team won top honors in the N.C. Junior College Tournament, at Catawba College; "Boiling Springs won in the men's and women's divisions by overwhelming scores." Members were: Men's affirmative - Wilbur Martin and Graham Piercy; negative - Leonard Young and Woodrow Matheny. Women's affirmative - Sarah Falls and Margaret Lee Liles; negative - Louise Brown and Aileen Scism.

George Jackson Burnett became the fifth president of the College, beginning with the 1936-1937 school year, at a salary of \$2,000. President Burnett, based on previous experience, was until that time one of the best qualified presidents. He held B.A. and M. A. degrees from Bethel College in Tennessee. From 1907-1923, he was president of Tennessee College for Women; for two years, 1915-1917, he was president of the Tennessee Baptist State Convention; for one year he was vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and for three and one-half years he served as Associate Secretary of the Baptist Brotherhood of the Southern Baptist Convention. (Dedmond, p.80). These past experiences were the type that the Trustees looked for, particularly the previous experience as a college president and his experience in working with the Southern Baptist Convention.

President Burnett felt that if he could strengthen the churches, they would be in a position to put the college in their budgets and the College would be strengthened. One of his proposals was the development of unified church budgets. Before that time, churches in the area had contributed to various causes including Boiling Springs Junior College, but



George J. Burnette
President 1936-1939
Boiling Springs Junior
College

many had no unified budget. During the fall of 1936, President Burnett conducted a stewardship revival which led the Boiling Springs Baptist Church to adopt a unified budget. He also worked with many other churches in budget development. To illustrate how little

money was coming into the churches at that time, the first unified budget of Boiling Springs Baptist Church called for \$150 each Sunday. By contrast, this church had a 1995-1996 budget of approximately one half million dollars.

Mrs. George Burnett, the president's wife, was very active in school activities. She was coach for the debate and forensics teams, and at one time served as president of the N.C. Junior College Forensics Society. Mrs. Burnett also directed several dramatic productions, including a successful presentation of Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream" on May 17, 1937. Over sixty people performed in this production, which was part of the commencement exercises for that year. It was held at what was then called the "Springs Theater in the College Woods," located near the spring or springs for which the town and college were originally named. Mrs. Burnett also spoke in chapel about such things as good manners, proper speech and dress, and other matters of social grace and refinement. Cultivation of good taste and manners was considered an important function of a college education.

Mrs. Helen Borders Blanton, a student during this period, pointed out that female students did not leave campus without special permission - usually from parents. Young men and women who dated did so in the parlor or as it was sometimes called the social hall

of the Huggins-Curtis Building. The daters would sit in the room and talk.

Despite its lingering financial problems, President and Mrs. Burnett, who seemed to work as a team, must have felt good about the school at the end of their first year. President Burnett was reelected by the trustees, who were making plans for more than 250 students for the fall of 1937. An executive committee chaired by Judge E. Y. Webb was appointed to work out the \$30,000 debt of the College. There was some confidence that the debt could be paid by September and that the College would again become accredited. The debt and other financial troubles were major factors in the decision in 1937 to eliminate football.

However, as the College was showing some signs of financial relief, a terrible tragedy struck. Just after midnight on November 12, 1937 the Memorial Building (later renamed E. B. Hamrick Hall) burned. Mysterious in origin, the fire was discovered by two girls in their dormitory (the Huggins-Curtis Building) adjacent to Memorial. Awakened by crackling flames outside their window, the screaming girls set up a general alarm in time for fifteen boys living in the back part of Memorial to escape, as did 100 girls in Huggins-Curtis.

The peal of the College bell awakened the other students along with many residents in Boiling Springs, but all were helpless as flames soon devoured the entire building. Gone was the College auditorium as well as most of the classrooms and science laboratories. The state high school was using the upper floors, so both the state high school and the College suffered tremendously. Dr. Wyan Washburn, reporter for the *Shelby Daily Star* at the time, described this fire as "the most spectacular fire in the county in years with the blaze shooting from 150 to 200 feet in the air as the sturdy brick walls with wide windows for drafts made a veritable blast furnace."

Mrs. Helen Borders Blanton was living in the Huggins-Curtis Building at the time of the fire. She remembered being awakened by the great light from the fire and the flying sparks and embers hitting the outside wall of the building. There was a fire escape near her window, but because of the heat and flying embers she reports the girls went down the inside steps and out on to the street (Quinn Circle) in front of the building. She recalled that there were explosions in the building as chemicals in the laboratory exploded.

Boiling Springs Junior College And The Depression Years

At three o'clock that morning, according to Dedmond, President Burnett called a faculty meeting and announced that there would be no college classes the rest of the week. Classes resumed the following week in the Huggins-Curtis Building, which, along with the Barn (the boys' dormitory built in 1910), the old gym on the back side (west) of the campus, and the Moore House, a faculty residence, was all that was left..

A *Shelby Star* editorial the next day mentioned the closing of two junior colleges in the state and commented on the loss of the building in Boiling Springs:

Despite a disastrous fire which destroyed a partially insured main building, work will not stop at the Boiling Springs College. The work ahead is difficult, but some institutions thrive under trying conditions when others fail. The manner in which friends of Boiling Springs College have gone about their task is indicative of their determination that funds will be found. They can always be found when the will to find them is strong enough. Boiling Springs Junior College is an important part of Cleveland County. The influence it exerts on a large number of people is an excellent one. The Star is profoundly glad that officials of the institution, disappointed as they may be at the loss because of the fire, are not disheartened and will press forward as if there had been no fire.

But then, another *Star* editorial shortly thereafter suggested that the school should be moved to Shelby:

In order for the college to have the proper appeal to the youth of today, it should be in a city such as Shelby where students would have the advantage of this modern age. Here the students would have the advantage of our larger and more organized churches and Sunday Schools, our social, literary, civic influences such as are to be found only in the more populous centers.

The article made clear that the suggestion was being made wholly on the newspaper's own responsibility and for what it considered the best interest of the College. This was not to be the last time that moving the school would be mentioned by school personnel or supporters. Yet there is no evidence that the trustees ever seriously considered moving.

In the 1938 edition of the college yearbook, *Bubbles*, was this expression of the mood of the students following the campus fire: "Our college and we have suffered a great defeat in the burning of our beautiful new Memorial Building. However, defeat is never other than a challenge, and we must rise phoenix-like from the ashes."

After the burning of the Memorial Building, Miss Etta Curtis wrote a check for all her savings to help in its rebuilding. On January 26, 1940 she died a pauper, by choice, having given her life and savings to the institution. (Dedmond, p. 45)

Not only did the fire put a severe strain on college finances but evidently it strained the relationships between President Burnett and the Trustees. The Trustees voted to take part of the money received from the insurance on the Memorial Building and pay off the \$6,000 note on the gymnasium. The College had carried about \$15,000 insurance on Memorial. With the remaining \$9,000, the Trustees had enough to pay off about one-fourth of the debt of the College. They proposed to pay off the debt by asking creditors to settle for twenty-five cents on the dollar. President Burnett did not agree with the action of the Trustees, but he agreed reluctantly to see the creditors and to lay the Board's proposition before them. (Dedmond, p.83)

Several things occurred that further strained relations between the president and the Trustees. As in many "family quarrels," short money led to short tempers and placing blame, a futile exercise because all parties were dedicated to improving the financial situation.

President Burnett decided to halt the National Youth Administration Program, one of the federally-sponsored Depression programs designed to benefit youth. According to Dedmond, Mr. Burnett probably felt that this program violated the principle of separation of church and state. Some of the trustees disagreed.

Also, President Burnett felt the teachers had been promised more salary, that the money was available, and teachers should be paid more. But then, the Trustees called upon Burnett to reduce expenses. He cut salaries, including his own, by ten percent.

On July 4, 1938 the Trustees employed J.L. Lovelace of Boiling Springs at a salary of \$40 per month and traveling expenses to assist Mr. Burnett in collecting past due accounts. Mr. Lovelace seemingly was hired without President Burnett's consent and/or knowledge, and Burnett resigned. The Trustees refused to accept the resignation, and the President agreed to stay on. The Trustees seemingly

were employing Mr. Lovelace to give help to the President, but Burnett contended that the College could not afford to pay an extra man at that time. Later, other financial disagreements occurred and the President again resigned. (Dedmond, p.84)

At a called meeting of the Board of Trustees on February 23, 1939 Judge E. Yates Webb read President Burnett's resignation which was to take effect March 1, 1939. The Board requested the Rev. J.W. Suttle, D.F. Hord, and the Rev. W.P. Biggerstaff "draw up resolutions of respect for the fine work done at the College and in the field by President Burnett."

The *Shelby Daily Star* commented:

President Burnett came to the school as president in October, 1936, and has been very popular as an administrator and as a leader in the surrounding associations which support the school.

President Burnett within a few days announced that March 1, 1939 he would be associating with Limestone College in Gaffney, SC as field representative in the public relations department.

On February 21, 1939 The *Shelby Daily Star* editorialist wrote:

Boiling Springs Junior College as well as the whole section of the state suffers a great loss in the resignation of Dr. George J. Burnett as president of the institution. During his two years as president, he has worked faithfully and effectively in bringing the school to the forefront and making it a real educational force in the community. Wherever Dr. Burnett goes, the students and friends of the institution will love him and appreciate the short but fruitful service he rendered.

Boiling Springs Junior College has had one struggle and handicap after another during all the years, but it has wrought well and produced many fine men and women who are today making proud records in all fields of endeavors. Another critical period has been reached for the selection of a competent successor to Dr. Burnett and for better equipment and larger endowment.

President Burnett had explained to the Trustees that the only reason for his resigning at the school was financial, that he had certain obligations to meet

which could not be met with the compensation he was getting at the College. He added, "I have enjoyed the two and a half years here, and I wish I were 20 years younger... there is a great opportunity for building a strong junior college in this county...."

Several positive things were emphasized and/or accomplished during the Burnett presidency:

- 1. The churches of the associations had been strengthened by the introduction of unified budgets and in turn the College was strengthened.*
- 2. The President had kept before its supporters the goals and purpose of the school.*
- 3. The school moved from a semester to a quarter system. This had provided one more time each year when students could enter and probably increased the size of the student body.*
- 4. Internal record-keeping of the College was reportedly improved. President Burnett called upon Professor Hubert Dixon, teacher of mathematics since 1935, to help with records.*

According to Dedmond, Burnett was so pleased with Professor Dixon's work that Dixon was made dean of the college. The base of support was broadened when on September 30, 1937 the Green River Association endorsed Boiling Springs College and joined with the Kings Mountain, Sandy Run, and Gaston associations in its support. While the administration and Trustees were dealing with various problems and challenges, Boiling Springs Junior College students were active in programs designed to promote spiritual growth. During the 1936-37 school year, Woodrow Hill, a popular young ministerial student, was elected president of the Baptist Student Union of the colleges in North Carolina, both private and public. The school may have been relatively small with many financial problems, but even in times when the situation was precarious, students, faculty, and administration were involved in quality Christian education. At Christmas 1936, several worshipful activities and programs were presented by the students. The Department of Music, under the direction of Miss Margaret L. James, conducted what was described as a very beautiful and inspiring candlelight Christmas service at the Boiling Springs Baptist Church.

As had been true with a previous presidential search committee, the Trustee nominating committee turned to Rev. J.L. Jenkins to serve again as interim president until the search committee could recommend a successor to President Burnett. Rev. Jenkins had previously served as interim president from March 23, 1932 until the close of the school year in the spring of 1935. Now he was called in again. He was a fine scholar, familiar with the area and its people, and not at all least, Rev. Jenkins was a man of even temperament. The school had just come through a somewhat stormy era with tension between the president and trustees. Probably no one could have been found who would have been less likely to become embroiled in conflict with the various constituencies - trustees, church leaders, students, alumni.

Rev. Jenkins would have two assistants, mathematics Professor Hubert Dixon and religion Professor W.W. Davidson, working in cooperation with treasurer J.L. Lovelace. Mr. Lovelace was a Boiling Springs accountant and farmer who had graduated with honors from Wake Forest. He was an active church member in the Boiling Springs Baptist Church, having served as treasurer, Sunday School teacher, and deacon.

On May 5, 1939 the Trustees met in a called meeting to receive the report of the nominating committee to recommend a president. Judge E. Y. Webb read a letter from Chairman Biggerstaff recommending that Reverend J.R. Cantrell be elected president at a salary of \$2,000 plus expenses. In addition the president was to be provided a home. Rev. Cantrell, having graduated in 1919 from Boiling Springs High School, was its first alumnus to become president.

Mr. Cantrell came as a student to Boiling Springs High School in 1915 with his wife and two children and with very limited means. He cut cordwood for a large landowner in the community to work his way through school. At the time he was chosen president, some trustees remembered his "cordwood splitting days." Rev. Cantrell soon after being named president said that he "felt the urge" to become associated with the College because of the great need for Christian education.

Rev. Cantrell was born on April 24, 1888 in Cherokee County, SC, one of ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Dave Cantrell. After being out of school for several years following his graduation from Boiling

Springs High School, Mr. Cantrell after much prayer and soul seeking entered Wake Forest College. At the time he entered Wake Forest, he was thirty-two years of age. According to Bryson in *The Society Lady of Catawba County: A History of the First Baptist Church of*

Newton, North Carolina, many friends tried to persuade him not to pursue additional education. To enter Wake Forest, he would have to give up his home and move his family.

Mr. Cantrell, however, was a man of deep faith, resolve, and conviction. He had felt for some time the call to greater ministry. With little encouragement, he sold his farm and horses and headed for Wake Forest with his wife and children. When he arrived there, he had \$50.00 in his pocket, but this was needed for books and tuition. He worked and borrowed until he finished his degree in 1924. While a student at Wake Forest, he had served the Hillsborough Baptist Church as pastor and remained as pastor after his graduation.

In 1928 Rev. Cantrell became an evangelist for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He served Plymouth Baptist Church until 1931 when First Baptist Church in Newton extended him a call. Bryson stated that "the church was brought to realize the fullness of its ministry." Later, Rev. Cantrell served as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Morganton.

During the summer before he was recommended as president of the College, Rev. Cantrell conducted a revival meeting at Boiling Springs Baptist Church and took new interest in the school. Soon after becoming president, Cantrell enlisted the help of others and set about improving the appearance of the



campus. Walks were built and an attractive lily pond was created on the south side of the Huggins-Curtis Building. The area around the spring was developed during the Cantrell administration. A bridge was built across the stream which runs from the spring, and a 40-foot cement table was constructed. The president was concerned that the water from the spring should be safe for drinking, so he regularly had it checked. He also built a rock wall as an entrance to the campus.

One of the more ambitious projects was the rock veneering of the old gymnasium on the west side of the campus, now the approximate site of the Craig Hall. The gym had stood there since about 1930. Mr. Cantrell knew some masons, and the county was strewn with rock, so he got people to haul rock to the campus and had the building completely stone-veneered.

In the late 1930s and for some time afterwards, this gymnasium was one of the best in the area. For a number of years the Cleveland County Schools' basketball boys' and girls' tournaments were held here. It was also the site for the basketball games played by the Boiling Springs public high school teams as well as junior college teams.

Lacking adequate classrooms, the College used whatever space it could find. Dan W. Moore, Jr., retired principal of Shelby High School and former teacher and athletic director at the College, tells that when he first joined the faculty in September 1939, there were no laboratory facilities, so the science laboratories were held in uptown Boiling Springs in a building being used by Odus Lee. Mr. Moore says that his salary at the College was \$600 a year plus room and board. Students were still bringing farm commodities to pay their expenses. D.W. and Nancy Moore, Dorothy Sue Hamrick and many others brought milk and other farm products to pay for tuition, music lessons, and other expenses.

The Boiling Springs area, including the campus, was still rural. In the 1930s there was a hog lot on the campus in the general vicinity of the present Stroup Residence Hall. J.Y. Green was the owner of the hogs, and it was very common to see Mr. Green with the help of a stout stick marching one of his boar hogs from one location in town to another.

President Chris White recently pointed out that President Cantrell carried with him a ledger as he solicited funds from individuals and businesses. This ledger, which has become a part of the Cantrell memorabilia, showed entries of five cents, several one

dollar donations, and other donations large and small. These gifts and contacts laid the groundwork for later financial drives under various administrators. The fundraising by Rev. Cantrell and others, including Rev. J.W. Suttle were a prologue to later campaigns by fundraising organizations, college officials and friends of the school.

On February 28, 1991 the school honored Rev. Cantrell by naming the campus minister's office in his memory. Many of his family and friends, including his three children - Cleatus, Grace, and John - attended the service. President Christopher White commented, "The College was in a mess when Rev. Cantrell assumed the presidency. The Hamrick Building had burned, and weeds around the campus were high....Mr. Cantrell's love for the ministry, coupled with his love for students, made the naming of the minister's office most symbolic."

At this service, friends, including former students and faculty, spoke in praise of President Cantrell and his role as president of the College. Brooks Piercy, who was teaching agriculture in the local high school and got help from Mr. Cantrell in teaching classes after World War II, recalled how Rev. Cantrell helped the townspeople develop victory gardens during the war.

Rev. Robert Abrams, who attended Gardner-Webb and served the College as Director of Admissions, Director of College-Church Relations, and as Registrar, recalled that he had many reasons to be grateful to Preacher Cantrell. He pointed out that in those days chapel was a time of worship and that President Cantrell often preached. Cantrell was an influence, said Rev. Abrams, who gave him his desire to preach. Also, like many other college students Abrams married a college sweetheart. He gave President Cantrell credit for recruiting a bashful Casar girl, Elva, whom Mr. Abrams met at Gardner-Webb and eventually married.

It was during the latter part of the Cantrell presidency and especially during the Elliott administration which followed that financial support of the school began to grow. Donors who were now better-off began to give larger contributions.

When President Cantrell and the trustees turned to Horace Easom to head a fundraising drive, they turned to a man who for many years had served as Director of Religious Education and Music at First Baptist Church of Shelby. Mr. Easom had a close acquaintance with many people in the area including Max Gardner, Mal Spangler, E.B. Hamrick, George

Boiling Springs Junior College And The Depression Years

and Charles Dover, and George Blanton. These men and many other persons were to give generously to the school.

Pranks in junior college days tended toward the down-to-earth and intimate. Toilets in the area were often outhouses, and one would occasionally show up on campus with a designation of dean's office or some other such designation.

From time to time, cows, goats, and other farm animals also appeared on campus. During the late 1930s, at least one goat is reported to have been brought up to the girl's floor of the Huggins-Curtis Building and released. The goat-nappers, seemingly, enjoyed their success in getting the goat past the room of Rev. and Mrs. W. W. Davidson, who lived in the Huggins-Curtis Building. Rev. Davidson was teaching Bible at the College, and he and his wife had a room on the second floor.

Marjorie Crisp from Grover, whom the students called "Teach," was Dean of Women and had the responsibility for behavior in the building. When the goat-nappers returned (and they did return), she told them they had one hour to clean up the mess. They promptly did.

Hal Dedmond, class of 1941, described how he was once initiated into the College by upperclassmen (sophomores). In the cemetery of Boiling Springs Baptist Church there is a sarcophagus, and in the later 1930s and early 1940s there existed the practice of placing freshmen in it. Hal Dedmond was placed in the sarcophagus and lay there one night from 10:00 pm until 3:00 am. He was given a \$10.00 bill when he entered the sarcophagus; however, when released he learned the \$10.00 bill was in reality a tobacco wrapper.

Dedmond also related a story of a baseball game played at Mars Hill College in the late 1930s. Baseball fields were not kept immaculately manicured and in good condition as they are today. Mars Hill was at bat, and a ball was hit down the left field line. Iley Gantt was playing left field, and as he ran toward the foul line, he suddenly become somewhat submerged. Time out was called, and it was found that the Boiling Springs Junior College player was over a septic tank and had mired down.

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Dean of Women Marjorie Crisp was also a very successful women's basketball coach. Miss Crisp attended Appalachian State University before coming to Boiling Springs Junior College in 1935. She coached and taught health and physical education for twelve years. In the

1938-1939 season, for the fourth consecutive year the women's basketball team had a winning season. The team was undefeated against junior college teams (there were many junior college teams at this time) and lost by a small margin to Appalachian State Teachers College (now Appalachian State University). Miss Crisp also reportedly helped coach men's basketball at the College.

From Boiling Springs, Miss Crisp went to Louisburg College where she coached and taught before joining the faculty of Wake Forest University as the first Director of Women's Athletics. Marjorie Crisp retired from Wake Forest University, and was the first woman to be inducted into the Wake Forest University Hall of Fame.

While economic problems still existed, the school was gradually moving nearer solvency. Horace Easom, as Dedmond states (p. 86), was a shrewd money-raiser, and knew many people in the county who were able to give large sums of money. In obtaining financial support for the school, Mr. Easom sought money from new sources but also turned to those who had supported the school through the years. Dedmond tells the story of Horace Easom and Mal Spangler, whom Easom had recruited, going to E.B. Hamrick and asking for \$10,000. "That's too much for me," Hamrick declared. "Well, how about \$10,000 for you and your boys?" they asked. Mr. Hamrick agreed that was different, and he gave \$10,000.

Newspapers were publicizing the fundraising activities planned by the school. *The Cleveland Times* published an extra edition on October 21, 1941 to break the news of the upcoming financial campaigns. In an editorial, Chairman Easom wrote, "A movement is beginning which will make Boiling Springs Junior College a million dollar institution in ten years." The newspaper reported that the campaign would seek to raise \$100,000 - \$40,000 of which had already been subscribed by 17 donors.

There had been financial campaigns in the past but never one as broad-based as this. It was the first time that the school had sought considerable financial contributions outside the churches and supporting associations. In the past, emphasis had often been on survival. Now expansion and progress were being discussed at the fundraising rallies.

E.B. Hamrick offered land to enlarge the campus, an offer enthusiastically accepted. In the meantime, Horace Easom had written former NC Gov. O. Max Gardner and included a copy of the plans for a greater

Boiling Springs Junior College. Mr. Easom received a letter from Gov. Gardner acquainting him with the fact that the Governor had already made his commitments for the year, but that he would give \$1,000. The two men kept in touch, and later when the Governor was in town, he asked Mr. Easom to meet him at the Gardner-owned Cleveland Cloth Mill. According to Dedmond (p. 88), the Governor had decided to back the College bountifully. "I've made all the money I want to make, now I need a project," the former governor said. Gardner shortly thereafter drove his sons James Webb, Ralph, and Max, Jr. to Boiling Springs to see the school and according to Dedmond, asked his sons if they would see the project through, if he should not live to see it completed. Gov. Gardner envisioned a major campus building program when building material and supplies would be more available after World War II.

Early in the summer of 1942, Gov. Gardner gave the College a gift of \$10,000 to make available twenty-five scholarships to young men and women of the area (Dedmond, p. 89). His purpose in giving the scholarships was to see if the College could attract better students for, as Dedmond states, he felt the school was failing in its efforts to secure the best and most ambitious. The offer resulted in a considerable increase in admission applications and evidently an increase in better-qualified students.

Gov. Gardner soon received a letter from a close friend of his family, President Franklin D. Roosevelt:

*The White House
Washington
June 23, 1942*

Dear Max:

I want to congratulate you on the farsighted vision which promoted your generous gift of ten thousand dollars to establish scholarships for promising boys and girls in the Boiling Springs Junior College area.

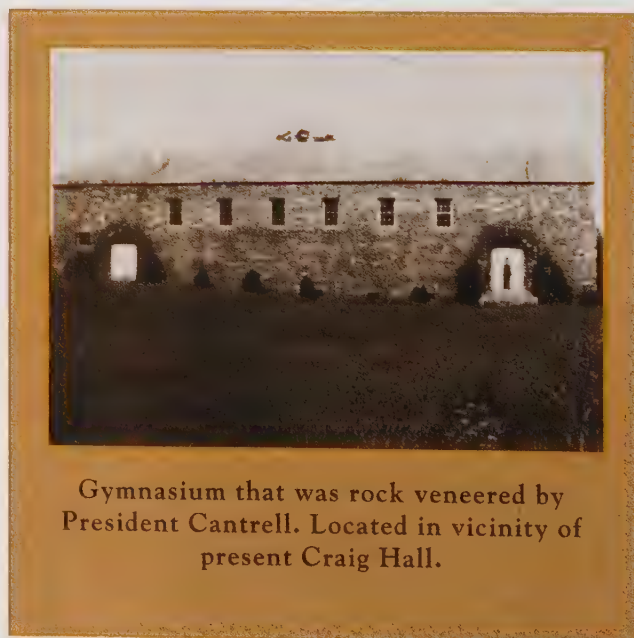
This is an act of faith in the future which should be an inspiration to friends of education everywhere. I am glad to know, also, that it is your purpose, in establishing this foundation, to encourage young men and women who are to be its beneficiaries to acquire skill of hand while pursuing the liberal arts. Since the college is located in the center of an industrial-agricultural area, the training which the scholarships will

afford should be of real value to the communities from which the students are drawn. I hope the undertaking meets with the success which its high purpose merits.

*Very sincerely yours,
(signed) Franklin D.
Roosevelt*

In June 1942 Dr. George W. Truett, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, TX, conducted a ten-day revival meeting in the Shelby Armory under the sponsorship of the First Baptist Church of Shelby. On June 15, 1942 two days before the close of the revival, a luncheon was held in Shelby's Hotel Charles to which were invited the Trustees of Boiling Springs Junior College and their wives and all pastors and their wives of the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Associations. Dr. Truett spoke at the meeting, and Dr. Zeno Wall presided. Following this luncheon, Horace Easom suggested that the school's name be changed to Gardner-Webb College, in honor of two of Cleveland County's outstanding families. The Reverend John W. Suttle made a motion that the name be changed; Dr. W.A. Ayers, pastor of First Baptist Church of Forest City, NC seconded the motion; and those present unanimously approved. (Dedmond, p. 94)

The institution that bore the name Boiling Springs High School from 1905 to 1928 and Boiling Springs Junior College from 1928 to 1942 now had a new name - Gardner-Webb Junior College. Because the role of Gov. Max Gardner in supporting the school was well known, the name change encountered little opposition.



Gymnasium that was rock veneered by President Cantrell. Located in vicinity of present Craig Hall.

A New President and A Time of Growth

The *Cleveland Times* of June 11, 1942, four days before the name of the College was changed, announced that Judge E. Yates Webb, chairman of the Board of Trustees, had appointed a committee to study the College's needs. The committee, as reported by Dedmond (p.94), would be chaired by Dr. J. Henry Highsmith of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. Other members were Chancellor Harrelson of N.C. State College (now university), Professor Claude Teague of the Woman's College of the University of N.C. (now UNC-Greensboro), President Thurman Kitchin of Wake Forest and Dr. Fred W. Morrison, Gov. O. Max Gardner's law partner.

In a letter to the committee, Max Gardner wrote:

The change of the name of the institution from Boiling Springs College to Gardner-Webb Junior College has no relation to my interest in the institution and will not influence my attitude with respect to its future. When I gave the scholarships, the name of the institution was Boiling Springs Junior College. I would have been just as interested in helping to maintain it during the experimental period I had in mind if its name had not been changed. The Board of Trustees thought otherwise, and unanimously voted to change the name to honor the Gardner and the Webb families of Cleveland and Rutherford counties.

I have known of the hard and desperate struggle of this institution to become a junior college. Frankly, I have been impressed with the fact that it refused to die. Yet I have never deluded myself with the idea that I, as an individual, possessed the capacity or means to make it live. I am firmly of the opinion that there is a need for a strong junior college in this broad and prosperous community and that there are abundant means



Governor O Max Gardner

to support it, provided its friends will take a real and genuine interest in it.

The committee did find the College "worthy to live" but made some recommendations about its future. The report stated: "As soon as possible, a new president should be secured, such person being fully qualified to administer the affairs of a junior college." The new president was to have at least two years of graduate study. (Dedmond, p. 96) The report recommended academic requirements for faculty, and that the student body should be increased to 300 as soon as possible; it discussed in some detail the nature of the academic program, addressing also the recreational needs of students and the school's public relations. The school was advised to raise \$50,000 per year for operating expenses, with at least fifty percent earmarked for instruction funds. The physical plant was to be enlarged until it could adequately accommodate the student body. State standards were to be met "so that Gardner-Webb Junior College may be classified as a standard junior college for the session 1942-1943." (Dedmond, p. 97)

A significant first move was the restoration of the Memorial Building which had burned in 1937. Walls still standing were examined and found sturdy; thus the walls would be restored and the interior of the building rebuilt. (Dedmond, p. 97) Dedmond reports that in August 1942, \$20,000 was needed to restore the auditorium. On August 31, \$10,000 was given by the Dover family and \$10,000 by Gov. Gardner.

Another hugely-encouraging gift was in the works. On December 4, 1941 *The Cleveland Times* had announced that Seaton A. Washburn, then 81 years of age and founder of Shelby's Washburn Hardware Store, planned to give the College a library building "separate and apart from the financial campaign." The library would be erected on land



**Washburn Library now located near Dover Memorial Library
used by the Foreign Language Department**

recently donated to the College by the Boiling Springs Baptist Church. It was to be a memorial to the Washburn family in general but especially in memory of Mr. Washburn's wife, and their two daughters, Miss Olin Washburn and Mrs. Mae Washburn McMurry. (Dedmond, pp. 87-88.)

As the College had changed its name so did the Memorial Building. The restored building was named E.B. Hamrick Hall in honor of the Boiling Springs merchant and benefactor who gave so much both in funds and personal effort, as trustee and advisor to principals and presidents. With former governor Max Gardner presiding, the dedications of the E.B. Hamrick Building and the newly-built Washburn Memorial Library were held as part of the commencement program on May 30, 1943. The dedicatory address was delivered by then-current NC Governor J. Melville Broughton.

Popular former Gov. O. Max Gardner in the 1940s had a tremendous positive impact upon the school in at least three ways: (1) giving financially to the school himself, (2) encouraging friends and associates to support the school, and (3) using his influence to bring to the school distinguished persons in many fields to serve as speakers and advisors.

A significant example of Gov. Gardner's influence is the Dover Foundation. He encouraged the Dover brothers, John and Charles, to establish a foundation with some of the profits of Dover Mills. This would

have the dual benefit of lowering taxes that the corporation would have to pay and providing needed financial support for worthy causes. Since its founding the Dover Foundation has made Gardner-Webb its major beneficiary. The first check, in the amount of \$22,000, was presented to the College on December 20, 1944. From that start the Dover Foundation has been the institution's most significant donor through the years. Even a casual visitor to the campus can see the Dover family's impact by looking at the names for the campus center, library, chapel, theater and rose garden.

In the life of any institution certain movements or events stand out as turning points. For Gardner-Webb a milestone was the 1940s fundraising activity headed by Horace Easom, and the support of the school by Max Gardner. Gov. Gardner's gift of scholarships was characteristic in that it was the kind of gesture that would energize and show the way to other donors. The \$200 scholarships, each covering the annual tuition for a high school graduate of Cleveland or Rutherford County, would dramatize, first, the close local ties of the Baptist-related college and second, the way students living at home, as many did, could take full advantage of the stipend. Professor Joseph Morrison wrote in *Governor O. Max Gardner: A Power in North Carolina and New Deal Washington*, "Gardner was the money raiser par excellence; he could teach the region's monied men how to give, and

he could turn down legal fees from clients whom he could then persuade to donate instead a tax deductible gift to the College."

Morrison pointed out, "Max Gardner was not born into a family of wealth, but if Max Gardner had been born poor, it was a poverty so widely shared as to be virtually taken for granted in that time. More important he was born into a homogeneous community (Shelby) in which manners, morals, and ancestry were held in common. Everybody knew everybody else, indeed, everybody was related to everybody else." (Morrison, p. 4)

Max Gardner's maternal great-great grandfather, George Blanton, who had moved from Virginia to North Carolina in 1769, was patriarch-in-common for many of the old families in Shelby including the Blantons, Gardners, Webbs, Roysters, Youngs, Hamricks, Wrays, Suttles, and McBrayers. Max Gardner was the son of Dr. Oliver Perry Gardner, a physician-farmer who lost all his pre-civil war property and remained for the rest of his life a struggling country doctor. On November 16, 1899 Max's father died, and his sisters, Bess, Ollie (Olive), and Hessie, each chipped in her \$45.00 inheritance to help Max enter college in Raleigh at NC A. & M.

(Now NC State University) in January of 1900. He finished college in three and one-half years, in 1903, with a B.S. in chemistry, and stayed on two more years as an instructor in organic chemistry. He was captain of the football team and an All-Southern tackle in the fall of 1902 at N.C. State. Gardner then earned his law degree at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he also played football. He was one of very few to have played at both UNC and N.C. State.

In 1907 Max Gardner became the junior law partner of J.A. Anthony, the husband of his sister, Ollie. On that same day Gardner proposed marriage to Miss Fay Webb. Miss Fay was the younger of two daughters of genial Superior Court Judge James L. Webb who, with his brother, Congressman E. Yates Webb and Mayor J. T. Gardner, Max's older brother, dominated local politics.

In 1910 Gardner was elected to the N.C. Senate. He introduced a local bill in 1911 providing for the incorporation of the town of Boiling Springs. Little did Gardner realize at that time the significant role he would play in the town, through his efforts in behalf of its central institution, as over the years Boiling Springs High School, born in the spring of



E.B. Hamrick Hall

1907, evolved into Gardner-Webb University, named January 1, 1993.

In the meantime, the business that was to play such a significant role in his life was being founded. On February 20, 1925, Max Gardner and banker George Blanton formed a partnership in what was to become Cleveland Cloth Mill, Inc. Successful from the start, the mill was soon able to produce the all-rayon dress goods which previously had been made in the South only by the pioneering Burlington Mills. Elected governor in 1929, Gardner promoted progressive reforms including the Australian or secret ballot and workmen's compensation. Gov. Gardner's position in Raleigh was visibly enhanced by his lovely wife; some thought Miss Fay the sharpest politician in the politically-minded Webb family. At a governor's mansion reception for legislators, the legislators and their wives formed a receiving line of their own. Down the staircase swept the radiant Miss Fay on the arm of the Governor. She moved along the line and introduced to her husband each legislative couple, complete with correct county identification. When Miss Fay had completed the introductions, all visitors broke into spontaneous applause.

Gov. Gardner developed a close relationship with Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York at meetings of the nation's governors. While governor of New York, Roosevelt visited with the Gardners at the governor's mansion in Raleigh. Unfortunately, North Carolina, during Gardner's administration (1928-1932) was suffering the worst of the Depression, with many people losing their jobs and their hope, while this Governor of compassion could at times only encourage patience.

In a speech at Chapel Hill, he made concrete the plight of the state's poor:

Last week a man about my age was ushered into my office. He had waited an hour to get to see me. He was stooped in body and spirit. He handed me a cotton ticket which showed his pay for picking 752 pounds of cotton.

Governor, he said, day before yesterday my wife, my three children, and I picked this cotton. One of my children is fifteen years old, another is seventeen, and the other is twenty-one. This is what we got for a day's work - all of us. I looked at his ticket which read 752 pounds, \$1.88. They were paid twenty-five cents a hundred for picking cotton - the most back-breaking job that has yet been invented. Think

of it, five people earning \$1.88 for one day's work. (Morrison, p. 100)

After completing his four-year term as governor, Gardner became a lawyer-lobbyist in Washington. He represented such clients as the Pennsylvania Railroad, Coca-cola, and aviation clients like Sherry and Pan American.

Presidential aides and speech writers for Franklin D. Roosevelt sought advice from Max Gardner about material for speeches. Because of the relationship between the two men, Mr. Gardner helped arrange a Presidential trip to North Carolina in 1936. Roosevelt's tour included a drive through Shelby and Cleveland County on the way to Charlotte. Some readers will remember the caravan went down the "wrong" street through Shelby and missed most of the 5,000 people waiting there to see the President. The welcoming crowd had gathered on Warren Street, but because of some complication, the caravan went down Marion Street. There was a great race across the court square with people falling to the ground. President Roosevelt loved to rib Max Gardner about the size of his native town, where Roosevelt testified he had seen no more than a few hundred people, "and half of them looked as if they were having running fits."

Mr. Gardner served for a few months as the Undersecretary of the Treasury, during the Truman administration. With this appointment he resigned the law partnership, partly to remove any appearance of legal or ethical conflict of interest.

Max Gardner was an excellent businessman who had made money, to be sure; but took more pride in the example he set by paying good wages to his employees; also, he saw to it that everyone who ever put a dollar into the Cleveland Cloth Mill went out with a profit. Meanwhile, in Boiling Springs, a significant change was taking place. On April 16, 1943 in a letter addressed to Mrs. Mae C. Stroup, President Cantrell submitted his resignation, effective June 1. Horace Easom then became interim president until the Board could find a new president. (Dedmond, p. 98)

Horace Easom and Phil Elliott had known each other as students at Wake Forest. Evidently Mr. Easom had kept up with Prof. Elliott and his activities since their college days and believed Elliott was the right man to head the College. Elliott was invited to preach at the First Baptist Church in Shelby, and the people reportedly were impressed.



In May 1943, the Executive Board of Trustees offered Prof. Elliott the presidency of Gardner-Webb College at a salary of \$2,500 plus \$100 traveling expenses. It was the middle of July before he accepted. Some who interviewed him felt that he was very much torn between staying at Western

Carolina University, where he was secure in his position as head of the Department of English, and coming to the struggling school at Boiling Springs. One person close to the situation observed that Dr. Elliott seemingly felt there were more good reasons not to come, when he was first contacted about the presidency. However, by July, he had come to believe that his mission lay at Gardner-Webb, and he came with much excitement and enthusiasm.

His background lends insight. On September 22, 1881 in the little community of Wayside in Swain County, NC, Philip Lovin Elliott was born to Isaac B. and Diane Jenkins Elliott. (Dedmond, p. 99)

From the rather meager schooling available in his remote mountain community, he went to Mars Hill College where he completed his preparatory work in 1915, then took his degree at Wake Forest College. Ordained while still a Mars Hill student, he served as pastor of the Baptist Church in Buck Pond, TN.

Three years after entering Wake Forest, he married Etta Maurine Carringer of Robbinsville. Phil Elliott's first teaching assignment was in a small, green valley deep in the heart of the Smokies at Proctor, NC. Here in a one-room school house made of rough boards, he taught a four-months' subscription school for \$40.00 a month. Today this site is covered by Lake Fontana. In 1919 schoolmaster Elliott went to Bakersville, NC, to become the principal of Mitchell Collegiate Institute, one of a chain of Baptist boarding schools at the time

supported by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Here virtually under the shadow of Roan Mountain, he was principal, dean, business manager, and teacher in a school for 300 mountain boys and girls, many of whom, according to Dedmond, were too poor to pay even the modest fees of the struggling mountain school.

In 1921 he became Enlistment Secretary of the N.C. Baptist State Convention for all of Western North Carolina. He returned to Mars Hill College in 1923 as Dean and head of the Department of English. Between 1923 and 1930, Elliott received a master's degree in English from UNC-Chapel Hill and then did further graduate work at Johns Hopkins University with the Renaissance scholar Professor Edwin Greenlaw. Back at Mars Hill he served as vice-president until 1930 when he resigned to go to Western Carolina Teachers' College (now Western Carolina University) as head of the Department of English. In 1933 he studied at Duke University. (Dedmond, pp.99-100)

Phil Elliott was fifty-one when he drove his little black car down from the Great Smokies to Gardner-Webb, in the mid-July heat of 1943. When Elliott walked onto the campus as president, O. Max Gardner reportedly said, "You are the only man in North Carolina foolish enough to undertake the job."

After Dr. Elliott had been president for several months, John Roberts, Director of Public Relations, wrote:

To describe Phil Elliott requires a broad vocabulary, because his is a many-faceted personality. Some or all of these qualities are apparent: loyal friend, quick of wit and subtle of humor...thick skinned to criticism...deep of thought and philosophy...dedicated to Gardner-Webb College and Christian education...generous giver of energy and means and critic of any who do not possess these qualities...visionary...diplomat, educator, Christian gentleman.

Soon after President Elliott assumed leadership of the College in the fall of 1943, the Trustees launched an ambitious \$300,000 financial campaign. In mid-August, Max Gardner had reported to the trustees that every debt of the College had been paid, and the school would open in September debt-free and with money in the bank. There were now more scholarships available and a small salary increase for faculty was promised.

Earlier that year, J. E. Sirrine and Company, a Greenville, SC engineering firm, drew up a plan for the projected campus. The plan proposed eight dormitories, six for boys and two for girls.

The Executive Committee of Trustees had decided to have an elaborate but appropriate inauguration for President Elliott. After having served almost a year as president, Dr. Elliott was formally inaugurated on May 6, 1944.

In his inaugural address, he defined the junior college as a distinct institution, one that supplements or complements the senior college, thus there should not be competition between the two-year and the four-year school.

Dr. Elliott emphasized several dangers facing not only Gardner-Webb but all colleges. One lay in over-advertising or in confusing advertising with dedication. "It is easier," he said, "to sell the people the idea that they have a great college here than it will be to build a genuinely great one." He warned too against over-specialization, against the school leading the very young to choose their professions too early and eliminate from their studies all but what was vitally connected with their professions. He said a far-reaching danger to any student is that he attempt to build the superstructure of his life on too narrow an intellectual and spiritual foundation. Another pitfall was "rapid production", in which, Elliott noted, pre-digested intellectual and spiritual food fail to produce men and women of merit., (Bulletin Inauguration of Philip Lovin Elliott May 6, 1944 pp.10-12.)

At the time of Dr. Elliott's inauguration the junior college movement in America was strong and the numbers were predicted to increase. Gardner-Webb, as with all American colleges, was enduring the effects of World War II. Soon after the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, many students were drafted or volunteered for military service, along with some of their professors.

In the fall of 1944, there were 234 students enrolled. Most of the young men were under the draft age of eighteen and few would be there more than one year. There were quite a few older men, some with families, who in that harsh time had felt a call to preach and returned to get the proper education; most, after the age of thirty-eight, were safe from the draft. But men of any age were scarce, outnumbered by young women three to one.

Because of the war effort, many items were rationed, including gasoline and sugar. With gas cut

short, few students drove automobiles. Gardner-Webb men who wanted to go into Shelby often stood on the corner at the crossroads in Boiling Springs and thumbed. At that time, it was not considered unsafe to "hitch a ride" or to stop for hitch-hikers.

A bus route went from Boiling Springs to Shelby and returned to Boiling Springs, on to Cliffside and Forest City, and back to Boiling Springs. The circuit was repeated several times day and evening, so that students could commute, or shop and visit. The buses were often packed.

Entertainment for Gardner-Webb students and townspeople during World War II were the Saturday night movies in the E.B. Hamrick Auditorium. Rook was a favored game in the dorms; horseshoe-pitching tournaments drew crowds uptown, to dirt lots behind the stores.

The lack of wheeled mobility put a crimp in campus romance; many students could not leave campus on a date - or could not go very far. Those who had access to automobiles often double-dated. While rules on student activities were not nearly as rigid as in the earlier history of the school, they were still strict by modern standards. A girl could date off-campus only three nights each week - Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and only on Saturday could she be out as late as 11 p.m. Not a minute later. Students dating on Sunday night were expected to go to church first and were required to be in their rooms at 10:30 p.m. Every girl who left the campus on a date had to sign out properly: where she was going, and with whom.

Dean of Women, English professor and Director of Drama at the school between 1940 and 1949 was Miss Frances Cuthbertson (Now Mrs. Vick, Miss C., as she was sometimes called, was also sponsor for the Student Government Association.) Considered strict but fair, she attempted to inculcate in the young ladies a desire to present themselves properly in dress and behavior. Some female students from this era, ladies now in their 60s and 70s, report that they still think of Miss C. when deciding if certain dress or behavior is acceptable.

In drama, Miss Cuthbertson emphasized excellence and insisted upon quality productions. During the 1940s it was traditional to present Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" each year before Christmas holiday break. Actors knew to learn their lines and to be prepared to give their best both in practice and on the night of the performance. One student actor who performed in "The Stephen Foster Story," "Smiling Through" and other productions was Sam

Greene, Jr. Mr. Greene, following graduation at Gardner-Webb attended UNC-Chapel Hill, and later became an actor on Broadway.

As the war continued into 1945, students sang along with other Americans "Saturday Night is the Loneliest Night of the Week," "I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now," and "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition."

When Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945 there was rejoicing on campuses across the country. The bell tower originally atop the Huggins-Curtis Building had been removed, but there was a bell still being rung by hand at the Boiling Springs Baptist Church (located at the site of the present Dover Chapel). Students rang this bell in celebration and jubilation. The peace treaty with Japan was signed on September 2, 1945.

Many young men went into military service at the end of the 1944-1945 school year. With the war's end, services began discharging men, who, funded for schooling and eager to make good lives, swarmed into colleges. The 1945-1946 school year saw the student body at Gardner-Webb reach 300, and by 1946-1947 the enrollment was 420, almost twice what it had been in 1944-1945.

Over the years, the student body came from an increasingly broad geographical area, and this was even more true after World War II. These returning veterans came home older and with knowledge and attitudes learned from war and travel that made them different from the men they had been before the war. Many of these returning service men entered college on the G.I. Bill of Rights, which provided veterans with government payments for education.

After the war Gardner-Webb provided student veterans with housing. Surplus army barracks were erected on Green Street in Boiling Springs for those with families. A newspaper article in 1947 noted that veterans made up half the student body at Gardner-Webb.

The College in the meantime was gaining greater financial support. With the end of the war the building program, long envisioned, was soon to become reality. Dr. Elliott, as late as August 12, 1946, observed that Gardner-Webb had made practically no expansion since he had become president, except in number of students.

Now there was money, and Max Gardner had been authorized at a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Trustees on December 29, 1944 to invest \$75,000 "in such stocks or bonds that he felt would be reasonably safe and wise." His investments brought good dividends.

In 1945 Gardner helped the College obtain 1,058 acres of farm and timber land that Cliffside Mills owned along Broad River. The College planned to use this timber for building purposes. This land also fit into the College's plan for vocational education. At that time there were sixty-five acres on the campus proper, much of which had been given to the College by E.B. Hamrick and his family.

Educational facilities were improving. The library at any college is the natural center of learning activities; no less at Gardner-Webb. In 1945 Dover Memorial Library drew a special-collections treasure when the library of writer Thomas Dixon was donated to the College. Mr. Dixon, a native of Cleveland County, became one of the most successful American novelists of the early twentieth century and wrote the screen play for "The Birth of a Nation" based on his novel *The Clansman*. During his lifetime, he practiced law and politics but eventually became a minister of the Gospel. In twenty-five years, Dixon wrote twenty novels, nine plays, and the script for five motion pictures, out of which he made \$1,250,000. However, several bad investments caused Dixon to die broke.

Another significant collection was received in 1947 when the library of Rev. A.C. Dixon, brother of Thomas Dixon, was given to Gardner-Webb by his daughter, Mrs. Clara Dixon Richardson of Black Mountain. Rev. Dixon pastored in several of the leading churches in America, including Moody's Tabernacle in Chicago, and climaxed a distinguished career when he accepted the call to Spurgeon's great tabernacle in the city of London.

In 1946 one of the largest and most valuable additions, the 4,000-volume North Carolina collection, was given to the Dover Memorial Library by Clarence Griffin, editor of the *Forest City Courier*. Mr. Griffin served in the General Assembly of North Carolina from 1933-1935. He also served as county historian in Rutherford County and as Director of Archives and History. Mr. Griffin was a noted author, and his works, which included history books and pamphlets, were included in the donation.

The school became more financially solvent in the 1940s. President Elliott, for some time, had been weighing the advantages for the school should it come under the support system of the Baptist State Convention. If the school came into the Baptist community of colleges, President Elliott explained, it would surrender none of its essential liberty.

Dr. Elliott, on August 12, 1946, reported from a study committee which he chaired. The position of the committee was that "the college must either raise an endowment to support the college, or get into the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to have advantage of its support, or go broke in the lean years." (Dedmond, p. 117). Dedmond writes that at the time Gardner-Webb College was receiving about \$16,000 annually from fifty-five of the 108 churches in the sponsoring Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Associations. From the Baptist State Convention the College would receive \$35,000 for current support under the proposed system of distribution. But to secure support from the Convention would mean relinquishing at least two privileges the College then held: the Charter of the College would have to be changed to provide for the election of trustees in the same way as trustees of all Baptist institutions were elected, and the College would have to cease to solicit gifts for current support from the churches.

After consulting with the Convention's Education Commission, Dr. Elliott presented a resolution to the supporting associations recommending that the school accept membership in the Convention and thus gain support. The associations then authorized the Gardner-Webb trustees to do all that was necessary to meet the Convention's requirements and to file the charter with the Secretary of State. (Dedmond, p. 118.)

Certain conditions accompanied the proposal. Gardner-Webb would be expected to assure that it would produce a plant sufficient in quality and equipment to care for a student body of four hundred. The College also would need an endowment. The school would need income from \$250,000 invested at four percent or \$10,000 annually, over and above other income, to maintain the plant. However, according to Dedmond, certain friends of the College had personally underwritten the requisite \$10,000 until the associations should have time to raise the \$250,000 endowment. The associations authorized the trustees of the College to undertake the \$250,000 campaign at their discretion. The trustees then agreed to attempt to raise at least \$125,000 in 1947 and a like amount in 1948 so that the College might go to the meeting of the Convention in the fall of 1948 with the money in hand. (Dedmond, p. 119).

On November 11, 1946 at the Baptist State Convention meeting in Asheville, Gardner-Webb was conditionally voted in as a member of the family

of colleges supported by the Convention. Support was to begin January 1, 1947.

On March 15, 1948 Ben Fisher was released from his teaching assignment at Gardner-Webb to direct the Endowment Fund Campaign. Dedmond reports (p.² 129) that under Horace Easom's leadership, \$142,000 of the necessary \$250,000 had been secured. Mr. Fisher's job then was to raise \$108,000 in six months before the North Carolina Baptist Convention met in the fall of 1948. During these six months, many individuals and churches contributed to the campaign.

President Elliott said publicly that he had no intention of going to the meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in November of 1948 unless he could report to the Convention that Gardner-Webb College had met the conditions for unqualified membership.

Elliott did attend the Convention and reported that the College had successfully raised \$250,000 for endowment in addition to \$750,000 to be spent on the college plant. Following the report, Gardner-Webb was unconditionally received as a member of the Baptist family of colleges.

Thus came to an end the period when the financial support of the school was by the founding Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Associations, joined later by the Gaston and Green River Associations.

This had been a remarkable period in the history of the school. These associations supported with their prayers, money, and effort the high school and junior college for forty years. They and the churches continued to help, but now the support of Gardner-Webb was state-wide through the Baptist State Convention.

In the meantime, on September 7, 1948, two months before Dr. Elliott's report at the Convention, the trustees appointed Ben Fisher as Executive Assistant to the President. In addition to fundraising, Fisher in the next few years was assigned other significant responsibilities at Gardner-Webb. The February 4, 1952 minutes of the trustees defined his overall role: "Mr. Fisher will assist the President in whatever way he can with the administration of the College and as Director of Public Relations, will seek through every possible means to create a wholesome and satisfactory relationship with the people so that they will gladly and consistently support the College with their children and their means."

Max Gardner continued to help Gardner-Webb in various ways, while remaining active on the political scene in Washington. In December 1946, he

was appointed Ambassador to the Court of Saint James in England. According to Morrison, Gardner was delighted with his new post, saying, "I'm looking forward to it like a boy to Christmas". Gardner was in bed by ten o'clock the night before his scheduled sailing to England. He was awakened around 3 a.m. by a sharp chest pain, which the hotel doctor and a heart specialist, summoned around 5 a.m. found to be a coronary thrombosis. A clot was blocking off the blood from Mr. Gardner's heart, and he suffered in agony while his loved ones stood by helpless. At 8:25 a.m. on February 6, 1947 the heart stopped: Max Gardner was dead. (Morrison, p. 270)

Miss Elma Harper (later to become Mrs. John Pollock) told of the dream that she had the morning of Mr. Gardner's death. She had dreamed that Mr. Gardner had died and remembered the eerie feeling when learning that the dream was a reality.

The Gardner-Webb choir sang at the funeral of Mr. Gardner at the First Baptist Church in Shelby. The number of people at the funeral was most impressive. Dignitaries from Washington and Raleigh came to pay their last respects to Governor Gardner.

Gardner had planned well for the effect that his death would have on Gardner-Webb. His widow and other family members continued their very active benevolence. On March 7, one month and one day after the ambassador's death, O. Max Gardner, Jr., told the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees: "Ralph, Mother and I plan to make a contribution through the Gardner Foundation of \$100,000 as a memorial to Daddy." Shortly thereafter, it was decided that the most needed and most appropriate memorial to Max Gardner was a student union building.

Dr. Elliott often said that he never wanted the financial part of administering the school to so consume his time that he could not be first and foremost an educator. He remarked that the school administrators were "water boys" providing funds for classroom teaching, and that the classroom teachers were the most important people in any educational institution.

As World War II ended, the school launched a building program, accepted more students and enlarged the faculty. Servicemen were returning to campus or coming to Gardner-Webb for the first time;



College-Community Band, J.Y. Hamrick, Director



Faculty and Administrators with long tenure in Gardner-Webb College

First row – Paul Stacy, Biology; Dr. P.L. Elliott, President; H.C. Dixon, Dean and Math

2nd row – Elma Harper Pollock, Foreign Language, Abbie Miller Mitchell, Piano and Music; J.O. Terrell, Dean and History, J.Y. Hamrick, Band, Drama and English

academically well-trained teachers who had been serving in the military and were ready to resume or begin their teaching careers joined the faculty. Dr. Elliott and his staff were also able to recruit teachers from other schools who were attracted by the progress and promise of Gardner-Webb.

Stephen Morrisett came to the College in the fall of 1945 from Westminster Choir School to head the Department of Religion, teach Bible and ancient languages, and direct the college choir. J.Y. Hamrick returned from military service in 1945 and was hired as a professor of English and as band director and director of drama. Mr. Hamrick had been born and reared in the town of Boiling Springs.

In that same year, Nettie Gidney of Shelby joined the faculty as a voice instructor. Mrs. Gidney was a graduate of the Westminster Choir School and had served as Minister of Music at Central Methodist Church in Shelby. Dr. Robert Dyer, a graduate of The Southern Baptist Seminary, came in 1946. He and Mrs. Dyer served as foreign missionaries and had been

taken prisoner by the Japanese in the Philippines during World War II. Dr. Dyer taught sociology, psychology, speech and religion. He was one of the first persons to teach at Gardner-Webb with an earned doctorate. One day while playing tag football, a young Gardner-Webb student was hurt and someone suggested getting Dr. Dyer to examine him. It was explained to the student that there was more than one kind of doctor. This could probably have happened on the campus of many junior colleges at this time. Mrs. Dyer taught voice at the College from 1950 to 1953.

Dean Hubert C. Dixon joined the U.S. Navy in 1943 and at the war's end left the service, as a lieutenant, to return to Gardner-Webb. Prior to World War II, the college yearbook had been called *Bubbles* because of the "bubbling" or "boiling springs" from which the college and town received their names. After Prof. Dixon's return from the Navy, college publications took on nautical titles such as *Anchor*, *Pilot* and *Porthole*.

Some of the school's most memorable teachers were on the faculty during and immediately after World War II. During the 1940s and until his retirement in 1984, a unique faculty personality was Paul Stacy, Professor of Biology. Paul Stacy is remembered for his Christian ideals and his genuine interest in people, especially his students. On hearing of his death in 1991, Sharon Case Randall, a former student of Mr. Stacy's (1968) and now a writer for *The Herald of Monterey*, California, wrote an article for the Web, a college publication, excerpted here:

Pop Stacy, as he was known on the campus of Gardner-Webb College where he taught for forty years, aimed to instill his students' with a fear of God and a respect for biology that would lead, he hoped, to a love for both. Where some see conflict between the teachings of the Bible and the tenets of science, Professor Stacy saw harmony - a logical link between creation and creator - and he taught his classes accordingly.

Another distinctive faculty member was Mrs. Abbie Miller Mitchell who now resides in Owensboro, KY. Miss Abbie taught music at Gardner-Webb from 1937 to 1963. Many in Boiling Springs knew her by the 1930 Chevrolet Coupe she drove.

Abbie Miller was born in Lamar, CO but very early in her life the family moved to Owensboro, KY. She received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. During the Depression era, she taught piano lessons in Kentucky. At Gardner-Webb she taught piano and for several years served as chair of the Department of Music. Miss Abbie was a gracious lady who exemplified the best of the Gardner-Webb spirit and the best in cultural refinement, balanced with a good sense of humor.

Once Miss Abbie fainted on the steps of E.B. Hamrick Hall. Mike Gordon, business manager, picked her up and carried her to the top of the stairs and was able to revive her. As she was reviving, Mr. Gordon told her that now she could not say that she had not been hugged by a man, to which she replied, "Well, I was passed out, so I couldn't enjoy it."

Before leaving Boiling Springs Miss Abbie was married to Clyde Mitchell of Vida, TX. The couple lived in Texas one year, then returned to Owensboro, KY.

A popular professor who joined the faculty in 1950 was M.A. Moseley, Jr., of Cowpens, SC. Mr. Moseley worked his way through college as a student

assistant in chemistry and by playing guitar in a local "big band." He taught at Furman University for two years before coming to Gardner-Webb.

Professor Moseley became ill with polio at the age of nine months. Although this disease did cause some physical limitations, it did not deter his dream of becoming a college chemistry professor. In his early days of teaching at the College, he rode a bicycle to school. In the 1960s he changed to a moped and was famous around town for his moped commuting with his dog trotting along behind. The dog was often in his office and classroom. Mickey Connolly, a Gardner-Webb student, wrote in an article published in *The Gardner-Webb Faculty Emeriti*:

Mr. Moseley was well liked by his students and colleagues. He was serious about teaching but also taught with a sense of humor. Mr. Moseley was famous for telling "corny jokes" in class. According to Mr. Moseley, if there was a slump in class, a joke would perk things up; besides Professor Moseley was a "ham" and enjoyed telling the jokes. Professor Moseley was known for his belief that through science he could see what a grand scheme God had created in the world and what a marvelous creation it is. (pp. 41-42)

One of the best known and respected faculty members was Mrs. John M. Pollock, professor of Spanish. Mrs. Pollock (Miss Elma Harper before her marriage) began her tenure at Gardner-Webb in 1936 when the school's name was still Boiling Springs Junior College and continued until 1963.

Mrs. Pollock was born in Charleston, SC. The family moved to St. Augustine, FL. Mrs. Pollock was intrigued with the Spanish flavor of St. Augustine and was influenced to teach Spanish. After high school in Florida, she studied at Woman's College at Greensboro, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and the French House of the University of Maryland.

In 1961 Mrs. Elma Harper Pollock was honored with the dedication of the Gardner-Webb yearbook. The 1961 *Anchor* editor-in-chief, Joyce Philbeck of Boiling Springs, made the presentation and read the dedicatory remarks:

A radiating smile, a willingness to listen, a keen insight into human affairs, an understanding nature, and always a desire to help ... these are some of the admirable qualities that belong to a faculty member known affectionately as "Miss Pollock."

As faculty and student body grew, so did the campus. Beginning in November 1946, Memorial Drive was developed just off the Cliffside road and north of the main campus. Memorial Drive was constructed in memory of all Gardner-Webb men living and deceased who served in World War II. Property on this road was reserved for residences to house college faculty, staff and administration and their families. Lots on which to build residences were given to the faculty members by the college trustees with the reservation that if the home were ever put up for sale, the owner must give the College first purchase option.

In a report in the *Shelby Daily Star* in 1948, President Elliott discussed the campus building program between 1943-1948, which included the construction of seventeen new buildings. Of these, four were brick residential duplexes; six were prefabricated student apartment buildings; one was a day student study hall; three were new dormitory units; one was a quonset hut which was used as a supply room and superintendent's building, and one was then under construction - the O. Max Gardner Memorial Student Center and Cafeteria.

The O. Max Gardner Student Center was completed and dedicated on Easter Sunday 1949. Sen. Clyde R. Hoey delivered the major dedicatory tribute to his friend, the late O. Max Gardner. Other principals on the program were Gardner's widow; Holt McPherson, editor of the *Shelby Daily Star*; and Dr. Wyan Washburn, chairman of the College Board of Trustees. In his dedicatory address, Sen. Hoey referred to O. Max Gardner as "the greatest man that Cleveland County every produced."

The president's home had been under construction and was ready for occupancy in the fall of 1948. This building, now serves as home of WGWG (Watch Gardner-Webb Grow) radio station. Until the house was completed, Dr. and Mrs. Elliott and their family had lived in a section of the former duplex apartment now housing Campus Security. This building is now named the Poston Center in honor of former President E. Eugene Poston, president from 1961 to 1976.

Evaluating the first five years of his presidency, Dr. Elliott addressed the size and growth of the student body and the quality of the students being graduated from the college between 1943-1948. Enrollment had increased almost 400% from 106 to 420. He pointed out that "Graduates who entered senior colleges and universities had done extremely well.

Some students had graduated in less than two years after leaving Gardner-Webb Junior College; several had finished with Phi Beta Kappa recognition; and all had been admitted into the junior class of their chosen college or university." Dr. Elliott concluded by calling attention to the building needs of the campus including a new library and new dormitories.

The faculty by 1948 was not only larger but based on degrees was better qualified. Under Dr. Elliott's leadership, the school had turned the corner financially and academically. Three effective men whom the president had known earlier had been brought into his administration. J.O. Terrell came to Gardner-Webb as Dean of Instruction in 1946. The others were the brothers Lawson Allen and Leonard Allen.

James Orville Terrell earlier had been a student of Dr. Elliott in a literature class at Western Carolina University. Mr. Terrell was born in Whittier, NC in 1900, and had taught in small two or three-teacher schools and been principal of a couple of larger ones.

Mrs. Terrell related that coming to Gardner-Webb "was considered a big move" for them. She gave up her teaching position in Swannanoa, and they moved to Boiling Springs in January 1946. Mr. Terrell was Dean of Instruction until 1963. After retiring as dean, he taught history at Gardner-Webb until retiring in 1972.

Terrell's sister Ann says that from the time he was carried to church as a baby until he passed away in 1988, he attended Sunday School and church every Sunday. He once said, "I'll attend church every time I can and then if I get to where I can't go, I won't have any regrets." He was converted early in life and from an early age read the scriptures each morning before reading the morning paper.

Mr. Terrell was a Methodist, but for many years he was the teacher or assistant teacher to the P.L. Elliott class in the Boiling Springs Baptist Church. Mrs. Terrell says that he probably knew more about Baptists than he did the Methodists.

Boiling Springs Methodist Church was founded in 1957 and met on the campus of Gardner-Webb until the construction of its building on South Main Street in 1961. Dean Terrell was very active in the Boiling Springs Methodist Church.

Dean Terrell's background, training, and temperament made for the type of dean that Gardner-Webb needed in this era as a junior college. He understood well the nature of the public schools from which the College was getting students and had the confidence of the people with whom he worked.

While he was dean, Mr. Terrell was top academic officer of the school and in that position had the unenviable responsibility of dealing with students who wanted to be excused from a class. This duty was time-consuming but probably reduced considerably the number of class absences. Many remember Dean Terrell's story about four students coming to be excused because the car they rode in had a flat tire on the way to school. According to his account, he asked each of them, without talking, to write on a piece of paper which tire it was. The Dean got left front, right front, left rear, and right rear.

Upon his retirement, Dean Terrell was honored by the faculty and staff at a testimonial dinner. Thomas J. McGraw, vice-president for academic affairs at Gardner-Webb, cited Dean Terrell as a man "whose service is exemplified by his unique ability to counsel students in a most gracious and effective manner. His positive Christian influence always permeates his conversation." In recognition of these and other qualities of service, Gardner-Webb honored J. O. Terrell in 1974 by presenting him an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. He was later named Dean Emeritus (the school's only Dean Emeritus to date).

President Elliott had been a good friend of Rev. Lloyd L. Allen, the father of Lawson and Leonard Allen. Rev. Allen had been ordained as a Baptist minister in 1915, and afterwards Dr. Elliott and Rev. Allen preached together at Bushnell, in the mountains

of western North Carolina. Mrs. Elliott, a native of Robbinsville, had been converted to Christianity in a meeting at which Rev. Allen preached.

Lawson Allen had also been a student of Dr. Elliott at Western Carolina Teachers' College (now Western Carolina University). Beginning in 1944, Lawson Allen was Director of Religious Activities and Field Secretary at Gardner-Webb. After being away from the College while serving in various churches, he returned in 1953 as Director of the Department of Church-Community Development. In 1954, public relations was brought under Allen's department. That same year he also served as acting president when Dr. Elliott became ill and went to Florida for an extended rest. Lawson Allen became Vice-President in September 1955.

Dr. Elliott and Lawson Allen were good friends. Dr. Elliott had every reason to believe that any time he was away from the campus the school was in good hands.

Leonard Allen, brother of Lawson Allen, served in a number of important positions at the College. He had developed osteomyelitis in 1921, and at one time in the 1920s was told by a physician that he probably had only three weeks to live. Mr. Allen came to Gardner-Webb in 1945 as Business Manager. In 1947, he became Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. In this capacity, he had the responsibility of overseeing the forestry, agricultural, and dairying interests of the College during the period when vocational training was being given more emphasis. During his tenure, at least one million board feet of lumber was cut and sold. In his later years at Gardner-Webb (1964-1974), Mr. Allen also served as manager of the bookstore. Among the people who had worked with him while he was Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds was Horace Scruggs (brother of renowned banjo picker Earl Scruggs) and Hal Greene, the father-in-law of Horace Scruggs.

On August 31, 1950 one of the most publicized and gigantic efforts anywhere, anytime in planting and seeding crops, fencing pasture land, and rebuilding a farm house occurred on some of the previously-unproductive land owned by Gardner-Webb. This effort to convert college land purchased in 1945 into a working farm and restore a farm house was sponsored by the Shelby Lions Club. Joe Craver, soil conservationist for the Broad River District, estimated that from \$60,000 to \$80,000 of value was added in the single day's operation. He also emphasized that the work done in one day was a demonstration of what can be done with modern machinery.



Lawson Allen, Vice President, with
Dr. P.L. Elliott, President



1947 May Day

A gala event held each may featuring a court with King and Queen and activities. Left to right – Johnny Walker, Dot Fortenburg, Thomas Sheperd, Cothenia Jones, Jack Hoyle, Betty High, Ed Robinson, Margaret McKinney, William Beam, King; Frances Williams, Queen; Seated Janis Runyan, Dot Spencer, Rachel Jenkins, Reeves Walker, Dot Spangler, Joe Swing, Jeanne Beam, Jack Dover, Bettie Brickhouse, Glenn Parris

The farm house restored on Miracle Farm Day in 1950 was first built and owned by Captain Oliver Holland. Just to the rear of the Holland house in the post-Civil War period stood the old Holland School. Captain Holland served as an officer in the Civil War and served as magistrate and tax collector for thirty years after the war. In its heyday, the old Holland Place was filled with life, including May Day programs, candy pullings and parlor dancing. Fox hunting was a great sport for the men. The Holland farm was sold to the Haynes family of Cliffside shortly after Captain Holland's death in 1912, and in 1945, the College obtained the land. The restored farm house is the house that Cline and Kathryn Hamrick, among others, once lived in for a period of time.

Despite the rain that fell on August 31, 1950, people came to watch this vast and significant project. Workers came to rebuild the farm house while some plowed and others built fences. The expected dignitaries came to participate in the activities of the day. Speakers included Secretary of Agriculture

Charles F. Brannan, and N.C. Governor W. Kerr Scott. Master of Ceremonies for the day was Grady Cole, well-known WBT Charlotte radio personality.

President Elliott's report to the trustees at the close of the 1950-1951 college year cited "Miracle Farm Day":

Approximately 185 acres were put in condition and seeded as hog and cattle pasture. A modern 48 x 96 barn was built; a six-room farm house was completely remodeled with complete water, sewage, and electric facilities together with a complete electric kitchen. A 40 x 100 feet chicken house had been built and nine hundred layers were in the chicken house. There were eleven brood sows from which had already come 93 pigs, 78 of which have been sold for \$1,050.00. Fifteen calves were on the pasture. There were forty-five acres of corn and 55 acres of grain.

A New President And A Time Of Growth

Over time, the College ceased to operate the farm and began leasing the farm to various farmers. Eventually the house and farm land were sold.

The decision not to continue operating the farm, except for woodland, was due to evolving needs and the economy. North Carolina and Cleveland County were much more agricultural in 1950. As regional agriculture declined, the importance of the College owning a farm declined as well.

Too, in the 1950s the school was giving considerable emphasis to vocational training, a priority that also was shrinking. Dr. Elliott and others realized that it would be difficult for the College to compete with other schools that were established for the express purpose of vocational training. The farm was not needed for training. Also, it had simply ceased to be profitable.

On the tenth anniversary of Dr. Elliott's presidency, 1943-1952, the following financial report was given:

	1943	1952
Operating Expenses	\$5,871.53	\$68,609.07
Scholarships	\$6,140.84	\$ 8,421.62
Endowment	\$7,754.25	\$260,134.89
Plant Fund		
Capital	\$278,099.64	\$1,381,122.99
Totals	\$297,866.26	\$1,718,288.57

By 1952 the official recognitions and accreditations of Gardner-Webb College included all that would be expected of any junior college. Some of the school's credentials:

Membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools

Member of North Carolina College Conference

Member National Council on Education



Arrival at Miracle Farm Day

Approved by the United States Government for the training of foreign students

Approved by the American Medical Association for two years of pre-medical training

Member American Association of Junior Colleges

Member of Southern Association of Junior Colleges

Member of Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools

The accomplishments of the College under the leadership of Dr. Elliott were apparent not only to persons throughout NC but to educational institutions in other states. In 1951, President Elliott was awarded an honorary Doctor of Education degree from Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN. Gardner-Webb and Carson-Newman in the 1940s and 1950s had a close working relationship. There were some years in this period when large numbers of students transferred from Gardner-Webb Junior College to Carson-Newman. At the May 1959 graduation ceremonies at Wake Forest University, Dr. Elliott was honored by his Alma Mater when Wake Forest conferred upon him the Doctor of Laws degree.

School officials in the 1940s and 1950s sought to determine if the school should remain a two-year junior college or move to some other model or status. There was some discussion of moving to a four-year model by focusing downward and offering two years of post-secondary studies before the student began the two years of college work. This did not seem practical to the school's leaders.

Dr. Elliott's report to the trustees in 1955 explained:

The junior college is not junior to anything but is a special institution. In the junior college program, special attention is given to those who will attend higher college. As it now stands, there are about 600 two-year junior colleges in the United States.

In 1951 twenty years before the school became a four-year school, Dr. Elliott noted to the trustees the possibility of Gardner-Webb's becoming a senior college. The building of a greater Gardner-Webb had consumed his time and energy since 1943. In December 1954, Dr. Elliott was granted a leave of absence to recuperate from a newly-diagnosed heart condition. A newspaper article written by John

Roberts in the Shelby Daily Star described Dr. Elliott's leave-taking:

A lightly worn, faded blue sedan left Boiling Springs Sunday morning headed for Florida. In the back seat sat Dr. Philip L. Elliott, president of Gardner-Webb College. He was beginning his first vacation since becoming president of Gardner-Webb 12 years ago.

Although there was evidence of some gaiety in the sedan, the vacation was a strict order from the family doctor. The family had gathered for an early Christmas, and with the "holidays" over were getting down to the serious business of getting daddy off somewhere to rest.

At the wheel sat Phil, Jr., strapping athlete and college junior. Beside him sat 16-year old Rachel. By the educator sat Mrs. Elliott, quietly determined that her husband would get an opportunity to rest. As they drove past the campus and approached the town's lone traffic light, the president took a long look over his shoulder - new dormitories, student center, library, heating plant - where in 1942 had been an eroded cane field. Across the road was the modern 18-bed hospital owned and operated by the college, and near that the president's home. When Dr. Elliott first saw the college, some of this area was a hog pasture. The 371 students had gone home for the Christmas holidays, exactly 300 more students than when he became president.

Not many of the villagers were out so early on Sunday, but postmistress, "Miss" Alda McClure, was sorting a huge stack of holiday mail when the car passed.

'About time he took a rest,' she remarked. 'There's been mighty few days the past 12 years I have not seen him come by here going to his office.' Her thoughts were echoed by the townspeople. Summed up, they amount to this: You can't give any one person all the credit for the miraculous growth of Gardner-Webb in the past decade, but you can sure give a lot of the credit to Dr. Phil Elliott. (Shelby Daily Star, Dec. 21, 1954)

After a period of relaxation in Florida, Dr. Elliott returned to the campus in the spring of 1955. Later that year he reported to the trustees that the staff of

the College consisted of thirty-six persons with twenty-six of these teaching classes. There were two house mothers, four secretaries, a bookkeeper, the business manager, registrar, and the president. Of the teaching group, four held doctorates, ten held Master's degrees with one or more years of additional graduate study. The president's report a year later, on August 24, 1956, included the fact that the average salary of those who taught was \$3,264.

J.W. Harrelson, chancellor of N.C. State College and a member of the special educational advisory committee that met at Gardner-Webb in 1949 observed, "Gardner-Webb College has advanced more in the last seven years than most colleges advance in 15 years."

Still, Dr. Elliott warned of a false sense of security:

There has grown up a feeling that Gardner-Webb is rich and that wealthy and generous-hearted friends will supply all her operational needs. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is true that wealthy friends have helped us build a beautiful plant, but every building we erect increases the cost of operation. The plant which we have built has made it necessary for us to raise \$6.00 for every \$1.00 we raised before it was built.

Meanwhile, in the realm of student life, anxiety and triumph had more to do with football than with ledgers. After a winning 1951 season the team played in the Golden Isle Bowl in Brunswick, GA, and lost to South Georgia by the score of 6 to 0. An article by student Eloise Bumgarner in the school newspaper, *The Pilot*, described the excitement on campus as students listened to the game on radio. She wrote that the students ran around all week trying to find at least three FM radios to put in a girls' dormitory, one for each of the wings and another for the parlor:

Then eight o'clock came. Were we excited! The announcer started telling about the Bowl Game. The first time Gardner-Webb was mentioned, there arose a shout from every girl in our parlor. Of course, what did they expect us to do, weep? Miss Mabel Starnes, Dean of Women, joined in with us and we just yelled so much she couldn't hear the game. (No wonder she left at the half!) She suggested that we pop popcorn. That was a swell idea. During the game we popped popcorn, ate pecans (shells were thrown all over

the floor), drank Coca-colas, ate peanuts, and just about anything anybody had to eat. (The parlor looked more like a monkey cage than anything I knew of.)

We still had hope until the very last minute of the game. But when the game was over, some of the girls looked as though they had lost their best friend and even more of them cried.

The following year, 1952, the football team again won a trip to the Golden Isle Bowl. This time they were victorious.

In that same year, 1952, B.G. Beason died, and the College lost a supporter of athletics and a long-time friend. Beason had provided transportation and food for the athletic teams. At the time of his death, Mr. Beason was an active member of the Board of Trustees. One of his greatest services to the school was as chairman of the building committee for the construction of Royster Memorial Hospital. That job was completed in record time and he brought it in at \$20,000 under all estimates of the cost of construction. Much of the material was solicited by Mr. Beason personally. With him it was not so much a task as a work of love for his community. (*Pilot*, March, 1952.) The Cleveland Sandwich Company and Snack Shop in Boiling Springs were founded by Mr. Beason.

Dr. Elliott always gave much credit to the trustees for the growth and success of the school. After an account of progress at a trustees' meeting November 1, 1952, Elliott asked, "How did we achieve these things?" Then he answered:

The only reason we made the unprecedented progress is the fact that at all times we had, as we have now, an intelligent and sympathetic Board of Trustees. They knew that many errors were being made, but they overlooked them and with confidence and words of encouragement helped the unskilled executive (president) and helpers get on their feet.

As the College moved toward the fiftieth anniversary of the school in 1957, the president and others began planning for a celebration. At the November 23, 1953 meeting, the trustees called for a steering committee of nine to make plans for the anniversary celebration. The leaders also cited needs in several areas which would require raising over a million dollars in three years. Thus was launched a

campaign to raise \$1,750,000 by 1957. In 1955 Dr. Hansel Stembridge, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Forest City and a veteran fundraiser for Gardner-Webb, was granted a three months' leave of absence from the church to head the campaign.

Trustees set goals for the Golden Anniversary celebration:

1. *Increase the school's endowment from \$260,000 to a million dollars.*
2. *Increase the student loan fund from \$10,600 to \$40,000.*
3. *Raze Huggins-Curtis Hall and replace it with a modern administration and science building.*
4. *Endeavor to reach and maintain a student enrollment of 500.*
5. *Provide additional dormitory space for 50 more boys and 100 more girls.*
6. *Construct a physical education building which includes a swimming pool and complete the athletic field.*
7. *Provide additional housing for eight single faculty members.*
8. *Institute a \$20,000 beautification program which will include the outdoor theatre.*

On October 2, 1955 Sen. Sam Ervin of Morganton spoke at the kick-off of the campaign. Sen. Ervin asked, "How can the church college (or Christian college) perform its high role? This question admits of but one answer. The church college must offer its students sound scholarship in the arts and sciences and sound training in Christian belief and character. And this it cannot do without the financial aid of churches."

Academically, Gardner-Webb was giving its students a strong base in the major academic disciplines. Approximately sixty-six hours was required for graduation with an Associate in Arts degree; most students were in the transfer program which would prepare them for entry at junior level into a four-year college. The Junior college curriculum was designed as a broad base of education in the liberal arts. Eventually, before becoming a senior college, the school offered a number of courses that were professional or pre-professional in nature, such as business education, data processing, and pre-textile engineering.

Dedication was ever the hallmark of Gardner-Webb's faculty. An illustrating incident occurred on February 2, 1955 when Dr. T.C. Holland, professor

of Latin, walked from Rutherford County, near Six Points, to the campus in Boiling Springs. Many students did not attend class that day because a snow storm had left several inches of snow on the ground. Dr. Holland started walking before daybreak. He caught a ride to Cliffside but walked through the six-inch snow from Cliffside to Boiling Springs, some seven miles, and was sitting at his desk in the classroom when the first student arrived for class. He admitted to a *Cleveland Times* writer that he was not sure he wanted to do it again. But, he explained, "Mrs. J.D. Huggins lives right near the College, and she used to teach me when I was a student here. I could hear her comment if she learned one of her boys would let a little weather hinder him." Dr. Holland had been a member of the first graduating class of Boiling Springs High School. After graduating from Boiling Springs High School, Dr. Holland had continued his studies at Wake Forest College, Harvard University, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

This man whose own life taught the good lessons he had learned so well died September 1956 from injuries received in an automobile accident. The article dealing with his death in a local paper reported, "His students remember Dr. Holland as a man of conservative habits, dignity of bearing, measured speech, and of the ever handy magnifying glass to compensate for poor vision." The remark about poor vision makes his feat of walking to school in the snow even more remarkable.

Another death occurred in the Gardner-Webb faculty in April 1957 when Prof. J.Y. Hamrick died of cancer. At the time of his death, Mr. Hamrick was 35 years of age and had served the school as Dean of Men, Professor of English, Director of Drama, and Band Director. The Boiling Springs Band which he directed was formally organized in 1954 and included students from Gardner-Webb, Boiling Springs High School, and Boiling Springs Elementary School. The band played at football games and other activities. As Director of Drama, Hamrick had directed many productions at Gardner-Webb including "Romeo and Juliet" and "Our Town". Prof. J.Y. Hamrick lived to be only thirty-five, but he had accomplished more in those short years than many people do in a long lifetime. In addition to his work at Gardner-Webb, Mr. Hamrick had served as mayor of Boiling Springs, was a charter member of the Boiling Springs Lions Club, and served as a deacon in the Boiling Springs Baptist Church.

A New President And A Time Of Growth

In that golden anniversary year, the school's leadership took stock and saw that though the budget waters might always have some rocks and ripples, improvement over the tumultuous years was worthy of deep gratitude. Dr. Elliott reported to the trustees in May 1957 that in the ten years since the Baptist State Convention had taken Gardner-Webb under its funding umbrella, the College had received a total of \$513,889.23 (\$360,820 for current operations, \$153,069.32 for capital outlay) and that \$101,000 was expected for the present year. Looking back, the Baptist associations which birthed and nurtured the fledgling school were due much appreciation. And, obviously, that later acceptance into the family of Baptist colleges had improved the school's financial condition.

Dr. Elliott, from the beginning of his presidency, envisioned Gardner-Webb providing many public services. Two that came to be were the health program which included the building of Royster Memorial Hospital, and the Guidance Department which provided testing and counseling for individuals and agencies.

Dr. Wyan Washburn was instrumental in the early development of Royster Hospital. Construction of the hospital began on the Gardner-Webb campus on

August 6, 1949. Dr. S.S. Royster was for twenty years chairman of the Board of Trustees at Cleveland Memorial Hospital. He began a fund which was supplemented by his family. After Dr. Royster's death, the fund was used in building the hospital, which was named for him. When opened, it was staffed by one doctor and three nurses and could accommodate ten patients. In 1958, a new \$70,000 wing was added, giving the hospital space for thirty patients.

By 1959, Dr. Washburn had been joined in medical practice by Dr. Sam J. Crawley, Jr. and Dr. T. R. Harris.

A second service to the larger Gardner-Webb community was offered by the Department of Guidance. The department had been founded and directed by Dr. Robert A. Dyer in the late 1940s. By 1957 the Department of Guidance was headed by Joseph Godwin and provided several services, including testing in cooperation with the Welfare Department (now Social Services of Cleveland County). Testing and counseling services were provided for a wide range of needs. (Gardner-Webb Anniversary Edition, October 22, 1958)

President Elliott, writing on the president's page in the *Gardner-Webb Quarterly*, talked of the upcoming Golden Anniversary to be celebrated in 1957:



Royster Memorial Hospital now Royster Residence Hall for males

There are certain intangibles that Gardner-Webb must keep if it does not want to sink into mediocrity. It must keep its sense of gratitude for the inspiration and incentives which it has inherited from the past. It must maintain its devotion at all costs to Christian ideals. It must increase its emphasis upon a well-rounded liberal education. Its emphasis upon the moral excellence and scholastic ability of its faculty must be maintained. It must never forget its function of dedication to the complete development of the individual, and especially to those who are not in the upper five percent scholastically or who do not have much money.

On many occasions President Elliott spoke of a commitment to educating students who did not have the money to attend college. The crop of grants and scholarships now available was far less abundant half a century ago, though many students did get some help from churches in the area.

The Golden Anniversary Year, 1957, was a time for remembering, rejoicing, and recommitment. In February 1957 *Lengthened Shadows: a History of Gardner-Webb College, 1905-1956*, was published. Prof. Francis B. Dedmond joined the faculty in 1952 and was commissioned by the trustees to write a history of the first fifty years of the school.

In May 1957 a historical pageant was presented by the English Department with faculty members playing the roles of persons significant in school history. Miss Jean McSwain (now Mrs. Jean T. Cabaniss), directed; Francis B. Dedmond was producer; John Roberts, directed publicity, and Miss Kathryn Copeland wrote the pageant script. The pageant was dedicated to the memory of James Y. Hamrick, who originally had been chosen to be director of the pageant. Mr. Hamrick's death of cancer in April cast a shadow of sadness upon the occasion.

On May 26 and May 28, 1957 Gardner-Webb heard two of its distinguished former students address the members of the graduating class in commencement exercises. Dr. Elmo Scoggin, professor of missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, preached the baccalaureate sermon. Dr. Dean Butler Pruett, superintendent of the High Point City Schools, delivered the literary address.

The College's students that anniversary year numbered 512; in its fifty-year history the school had enrolled 12,000. Events of the year reached their peak on October 24 and 25. The Kings Mountain Baptist

Association convened its annual session on the twenty-fourth in the new Bost Physical Education Building, with Rev. E.B. Hicks, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in Shelby as moderator. Presidents of the seven Baptist colleges in North Carolina came forward with remarks.

The next day, the Sandy Run Association joined in, as hundreds of alumni, students, teachers, trustees, and friends marked the school's half-century point. And, the baseball team coached by Norman Harris gave the school more reason to celebrate as it won the Western North Carolina Junior College Athletic Association Championship.

A bittersweet factor in the celebrations was that in the pre-dawn hours of August 23, 1957, another major fire struck the campus. The venerable Huggins-Curtis building burned before it was slated to be razed. The fall semester had not yet started, dorm rooms were not occupied, and as in the case of the Memorial Building fire twenty years before, there was no loss of life. Dr. Elliott was quoted in the *Shelby Star* of September 3, 1957, as saying, "Huggins-Curtis was the symbol of love and devotion of a former generation. We must build back on this site a symbol of our own love and devotion." This fire did destroy a building which to many former students, particularly in the high school era, was a symbol of love and devotion. After the fire, an interesting and somewhat unusual opening of the two cornerstones occurred. One cornerstone for the Kings Mountain



Opening of Corner Stones from Huggins-Curtis Building after 1957 fire



Baptist Association and another for the Sandy Run Association had been in place for fifty years. Several years before the fire, Mrs. Vernan Devinny found a copy of the program for the laying of the cornerstones which included their contents. Now, their opening revealed what had otherwise long been forgotten: a copy of the school's charter, copies of the *Shelby Aurora* and *Cleveland Star*, copies of the minutes of the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Associations, and various coins.

After the charred site was cleared, the empty space served as a parking lot until construction of the Charles I. Dover Campus Center in 1966.

Over the years, "extracurricular" studies and activities augmented academic life. Debate was very important, from the high school years into the College period. In the 1950s Prof. Francis B. Dedmond, chairman of the English Department, served as coach of the debating team. The team competed very successfully with schools such as Georgetown University, Duke University, the University of South Carolina, Wake Forest University and the University of Virginia.

The Baptist Student Union throughout much of the history of the college took a lead in promoting activities designed to enhance spiritual growth. In the 1950s and 1960s, spring revivals or religious focus weeks often attracted to the campus outstanding ministers and laymen to lead in worship services. These weeks of religious emphasis were sponsored by the college with plans delegated to the local Baptist Student Union. Worship services were arranged by the Student Department of the Baptist Sunday

School Board in Nashville, TN, which planned the programs and engaged speakers and teachers. In the spring of 1959, speakers for the week included Dr. William Bramlette, Dr. H.Y. Mullikin, Rev. Leon Hollinsworth, Rev. Keener Pharr, and Dr. Perry Crouch, all leaders at the time in the Southern Baptist Convention.

While some students were debating, others were participating in athletic contests, studying for the ministry, doing those things that college students normally do. Some were doing those things that college students do not normally do.

In October 1958 six students were found guilty of trespassing and of damage to personal property in connection with an episode which found a cow in a college dormitory - cattle rustling. It seems that a male student in H.A.P.Y. residence hall told other students that he had never seen a cow. Desiring to educate the young man, the students decided to bring one to him. These students took a cow from a nearby farm and brought her through the lobby and into the student's room. After awakening the young man, it was reportedly difficult to tell which panicked more - the student or the cow.

In fall 1957 several persons joined the faculty and administration. A new business manager was Mike Gordon, who would serve throughout the Elliott administration and into the Poston administration.

The stories of Mike Gordon and Max Gardner are similar in at least one respect. Both were successful business or professional men, and both felt that they had made all the money they would ever need, and both were looking for a cause in which to invest time and money. Fortunately, Gardner-Webb became that cause for both men.

Before World War II, the Huggins-Curtis Building, the Memorial Building, and the "Barn," a boys' dormitory, all facing Quinn Circle were the major buildings on campus. By the fall of 1957, there was an impressive campus composed of buildings around the inner quadrangle.

Moving clockwise from Decker Hall for boys, completed and occupied in the fall of 1949, were the John R. Dover Memorial Library completed in 1952, and beside the library, the O. Max Gardner Memorial Student Center completed in 1949. Stroup Hall, a dormitory housing 100 girls, had been completed in October 1956. Beside Stroup Hall stood the Hoey, Anthony, Padgett, Young (H.A.P.Y.) dormitory for boys erected in 1946 with the Suttle and McMurry wings added in 1948. H.A.P.Y. was the first building

Chapter 4

to be completed after World War II and symbolized the beginning of the new Gardner-Webb campus.

Across College Avenue from H.A.P.Y. was the Gardner-Webb Community Health Center, or Royster Hospital or Clinic, as it was usually called - a one story building of brick veneer with a thirty-bed hospital equipped for thorough diagnosis and minor surgery.

Next to H.A.P.Y. Dormitory was the three-story brick music building, formerly a boys' dorm known by students and alumni as "the Barn."

Facing Quinn Circle was the restored E.B. Hamrick Building which (as the Memorial Building) burned in 1937 but was rebuilt, renamed and opened for use in 1942.

South of the quadrangle was the Bost Physical Education Building, finished in September 1957. This building graced the knoll between Decker Hall and

the athletic field. The Washburn Library stood across Quinn Circle from the old Huggins-Curtis site.

Readers will note the reference to Decker and H.A.P.Y. Dormitories as housing for males. In 1957, and for some time afterward, these dorms were for male students. Later each of them became dorms for females. All the present dormitories for males were built after 1957.

One of the most heart-warming occurrences in 1958 was the graduation from Gardner-Webb of Martha Mason from Lattimore, NC. Martha was one of the last persons in this area to contract polio. Encased in an iron lung, the plucky genius completed her second year of work and graduated with honors.

Martha had lived in Huggins-Curtis Hall her first year as a student but moved into H.A.P.Y. for her second year after Huggins-Curtis burned. Martha could not leave the iron lung but was able to "attend" class through a two-way communication system. Test



1957 Campus Scene

Upper left, around circle – Huggins Curtis, E.B. Hamrick Hall, Barn, HAPY Dorm, Stroup Dorm, Gardner Campus Center, Dover Library, Bost Gym

and reading assignments were sent to her room, and her mother took notes and wrote for her. Martha had top freshman honors with a 97.22 average. She later majored in English at Wake Forest and graduated with honors.

When Martha Mason graduated from Wake Forest, Gardner-Webb's President Phil Elliott is quoted as saying, "Possessed by a dream, Gardner-Webb is about a most significant business. This dream was symbolized in the graduation of Martha Mason, Phi Beta Kappa, at Wake Forest though in her iron lung, thus elevating character above circumstances." Mrs. Mason was recognized at the graduation of her daughter, Martha, at both Gardner-Webb and Wake Forest. At the time this is being written, Martha Mason, her wit, intellect and compassion unfaded, still lives in Lattimore in an iron lung and has a tremendous interest in life.

There are many advantages for the student who attends a small Christian college. One of these is the opportunity for the student body to come together for assemblies, called "chapel" in the early days. If not very much is remembered about the details, chapel still challenged students and exposed them to new ideas and stretched some minds. Chapel in the 1940s and 1950s always had the element of worship. Chapel was a time to be brought closer to God and away from the thoughts of a terrible test just taken or about to be taken. For many it may have been a time to ask for clear minds on an upcoming test. Chapel was also a time one might get to talk with and be closer to one's girlfriend or boyfriend.

Students remember some of the oddest things, whether in chapel or in the classroom. One day a ministerial student, who obviously did not expect to be called upon to lead in prayer, thanked God for a beautiful day. It actually was a miserable day weatherwise outside. (Beauty, it is said, is in the eye and heart of the beholder.) Also at least once, a chapel speaker showed up in Boiling Springs, SC rather than Boiling Springs, NC. Students then as now usually rejoice at a class period missed or chapel talk canceled.

During the World War II years, the student body could be seated on approximately the first ten rows in the Hamrick auditorium. After the war, the student body eventually filled the auditorium and required a new place for chapel services.

Because of the growth of the College and the perceived need of a four-year college in the area, the

question of becoming a senior college continued to be raised.

The *Shelby Daily Star* reported in 1959 on a two-year study by a special committee of twenty-five. This committee, appointed by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to study the work of the denomination, suggested that "Gardner-Webb make plans to continue as a junior college for the immediate future." The study explained, however, that "if the College chooses to become a senior institution, it has the green light to apply for such privilege at any time such a move seems advisable."

As the size of the student body increased the relationship of the College to several services provided by the school also changed. Two of these were the school cafeteria and the Royster Hospital or Clinic.

Since the school began its operation, one of the services had been the school cafeteria. As noted earlier, students brought milk, eggs, livermush, molasses, and other farm products to help pay for their expenses in the early period of the school. However, as the College grew (526 full-time students in 1959) and as fewer families farmed, this practice declined and eventually stopped. Until 1959 the College operated the cafeteria. Mrs. Lillian Ritch ran the cafeteria for many years; following Mrs. Ritch, various persons, including Miss Janie Odom, served as cafeteria manager or dietitian, as the position was sometimes called.

In 1959 the school entered into an agreement with Slater Food Services of Philadelphia. This company and other food companies that have operated the cafeteria since 1959 have used the facilities and equipment of the College and have employed the personnel. The managers have usually been brought in by the companies, but adult workers from the area and students from the college have made up much of the work force of the cafeteria.

Beginning in 1959, Royster Hospital was separated from Gardner-Webb and began its operation with an independent board of trustees. Thus the facility would qualify for endowment and other funds that had previously been restricted because of the hospital's connection with the church-related college. Gardner-Webb students continued to receive hospital and medical care at Royster.

Because of the improved financial condition of the school, salaries of Gardner-Webb employees also gradually increased. By 1959 teacher pay had improved considerably from the high school days and the

Depression era as a junior college. The top annual salary for a professor in 1959 was \$5,600; for an associate professor \$5,100; for an assistant professor, \$4,800, with special instructors earning up to \$3,300. (*The Shelby Daily Star*, July 2, 1959). These salaries may seem low to the reader who is more familiar with modern pay scales. However, even these salary scales, which included raises from the previous year, were based upon the faith that a fundraising campaign approved by the trustees that year would be successful.

Dr. Elliott, as he spoke to associational meetings, alumni, and other groups, often said that faculty members do not receive much financial remuneration. "However, we have meat to eat that you know not of," he said, referring to the joy of teaching and seeing young minds develop. Another favorite expression of Dr. Elliott was "Teachers are dabbling in destiny."

New administrative positions were established. In 1959 John Hiott was appointed to a new office of Dean of Students. Mr. Hiott came to Gardner-Webb from the pastorate of the First Baptist Church in Byhalia, MS. He was charged with directing all student activities with emphasis upon the Baptist Student Union.

Because of increased educational opportunities for each generation of college students, the number of second and third generation college students increased at Gardner-Webb. Of the 533 students enrolled in 1959, over 200 of these students had been preceded by a family member. In 1959 there were nine pairs of brothers and sisters in the student body.

Some families have supplied several members significant in the history of Gardner-Webb. One of these is the Washburn family of the Washburn Switch and Double Springs Baptist Church area. Willard Winslow Washburn was an original trustee of Boiling Springs High School and the first signer of

its certificate of incorporation. A son of Willard Winslow Washburn, Joe Washburn, also served as a member of the Board of Trustees. Both these men signed personal bank notes so that the school could continue to operate during the Depression. When Joe C. Washburn was eighty-seven, he planted a cotton patch, worked it, and picked it so he could meet his pledge to the College.

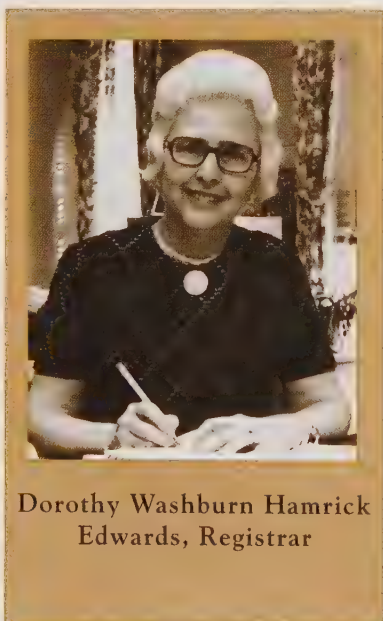
There were eleven living children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Joe C. Washburn. Five of these children have played very significant roles in the life of Gardner-Webb. Two sons of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Washburn, Wyan and Gene, have served the College and the Boiling Springs area as medical doctors. Mrs. Dorothy Washburn Hamrick Edwards served the College in several capacities including the position of Registrar. Seth Washburn taught at Gardner-Webb; Ray Scism was a nurse in the Boiling Springs doctors' office where her two brothers, Dr. Wyan Washburn and Dr. Gene Washburn practiced.

Dr. Wyan Washburn has been described as a many-sided individual whose background includes teaching, preaching and newspaper work in addition to his principle career as a medical doctor until his retirement. Dr. Wyan relates that early in life he came to Boiling Springs with his grandfather Willard Winslow Washburn and drank water from the spring for which the town and college are named. He remembers even then thinking that this would be a good place to practice medicine.

While Dr. Wyan was in the army serving as a captain and medic, he was contacted by President Elliott about coming to Gardner-Webb after World War II. After his discharge from the military in 1946, Dr. Wyan came to Boiling Springs to establish his practice which included serving as the college physician. He originally established his practice in the building that was referred to as the Dr. Joe Wood building on North Main Street in Boiling Springs, with the building also briefly serving as a residence. Dr. Wood had previously practiced medicine there.

Another physician who practiced in Boiling Springs previous to the coming of Dr. Wyan Washburn, was Dr. J.Y. Hamrick, who served the community from 1915 to 1950. He was a son of E.B. Hamrick and the brother of O.P. Hamrick, C.E. Hamrick, and the other children of college benefactor E.B. Hamrick.

In 1949-1950 the Gardner-Webb Community Health Center was established. Dr. Wyan Washburn remembers discussing with Dr. Elliott and the trustees



Dorothy Washburn Hamrick
Edwards, Registrar

whether they simply wanted an infirmary or a community health center. It was decided that Royster Memorial Hospital should become a community health center. Dr. Wyan served as hospital administrator until a full-time administrator, John Washburn was employed.

Dr. Wyan is credited with being a part of many medical firsts in Cleveland County - the first penicillin shot and the first rural health plan. He and his wife, Emily, who is a nurse, served one year as medical missionaries to Nigeria in 1959. He also served in the European theater in World War II and as a volunteer doctor in the Vietnam War.

Dr. Wyan, for a number of years, wrote a regular article for the *Progressive Farmer* dealing with medicine and was once recognized as the "Country Doctor of the Year." In addition to articles written on various subjects for journals or magazines, he wrote a book, *Canaan in Carolina, the Life of John Suttle*. In 1990, Dr. Wyan was awarded the status of Trustee Emeritus by the Gardner-Webb Board of Trustees. The school also conferred upon him an honorary doctorate at Graduation, May 5, 1990, when he also delivered the commencement address.

As president of the Cleveland County Historical Association, Dr. Wyan Washburn played an important role in the founding of the Cleveland County Historical Museum. He has served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and historian of the Boiling Springs Baptist Church.

Dr. Wyan is a great storyteller who relishes telling a good joke or personal experience. One well-known story is about an elderly woman who came to Dr. Wyan as a patient. Dr. Wyan told her that he believed a shot of penicillin would help her condition. She asked to go home before receiving the shot. Upon her return, she instructed Dr. Wyan to give the shot through the button hole in the undergarment. She was a very modest lady.

Dr. Wyan also tells of the patient who complained of severe headaches. He could not find a cause for these headaches and eventually sent the man to a specialist. The specialist could find no cause for the patient's headaches, so Dr. Wyan suggested that the man try to be as cheerful as possible under the circumstances. The man decided to buy some new clothing. When being measured for a shirt and suit, he told the salesman at Loy's Men Shop in Shelby that there was no need to measure his neck because he wore a size 14 shirt. The salesman insisted that he measure

the man's neck and found that he should be wearing a size 15. You guessed it - no more headaches.

Another of Dr. Wyan's stories gives some insight into the appreciation that people of an earlier day had for the hospital - and how little for the banks. It seems that Mr. Lee Gettys from New House had been in Royster Hospital for about ten days. He had been impressed with the care he had received. The nurses had been nice, and he was feeling much better when he went home. After a few days at his home (Mr. Gettys lived alone) he called Dr. Wyan and told him he wanted to see him. When Dr. Wyan arrived Mr. Gettys met him on the porch and invited him to come out to an apple tree. Dr. Wyan reports that Mr. Gettys dug rather deeply into the ground until he got to a fruit jar. Inside the fruit jar was paper currency amounting to \$10,000 which Mr. Gettys gave to the hospital. This \$10,000 went toward the building of the hospital's first addition.

Dr. Wyan's brother, Dr. Gene Washburn, graduated from Gardner-Webb Junior College in 1952. After graduation from Wake Forest University and Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Dr. Gene served in Germany as a captain and medical doctor in the Army for thirty-nine months. On his discharge from service in 1962, Dr. Gene joined his brother Dr. Wyan and other doctors at the Boiling Springs Medical Associates, serving the Boiling Springs area including the College.

In the June 13, 1964 issue of the *Biblical Recorder*, Dr. Gene testified to the value of education at both Gardner-Webb and Wake Forest. "My professional life as a physician has been enhanced by attending Christian colleges. I have thought many times about the fact that the physical bodies of all my patients will sometimes die regardless of my best efforts as a physician. I hope I can in some way help others to know that Christ is the only way to everlasting life."

Dr. Gene serves as team physician for the athletic teams of Gardner-Webb and can be seen on the sidelines at football games and other sporting events. In 1974 Dr. Gene was recognized as the Bulldog Club Member of the Year. He is an active member of the Boiling Springs Baptist Church. His wife is the former Billie Falls, who also attended Gardner-Webb.

Several years ago Dr. Gene Washburn and his daughter Charlene went with a group from South Point Baptist Church to Honduras where he worked for eight days as a medical missionary. While there he met a young lady approximately eight years of age who in July 1992 was brought to the United States

by Dr. Gene. A hole in her heart was repaired by surgeons at the Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. The healing ministry of the Washburn family will be continued by Dr. Gene's son, Rusty, who plans to return to the area and practice medicine after completing his study at Bowman Gray School of Medicine and his family practice residency. Dr. Gene has served several terms on the Gardner-Webb Board of Trustees and has served as chairman and secretary of the Board.

Mrs. Dorothy Washburn Hamrick Edwards served Gardner-Webb in various official positions between 1946 and 1984. This gracious lady affected for good the lives of many faculty, students, staff, and administrators during this period. She still is very active in serving the University on the Alumni Board of Directors.

Mrs. Edwards began work at the school in 1946 as secretary to President Phil Elliott. She became registrar in the fall of 1948 and served in that position until June 1978 when she retired because of the illness of her husband, Talmadge Edwards. Mr. Edwards died in 1979, and Mrs. Edwards returned to the College and served as Registrar and assistant to the Dean of Admissions and Enrollment Planning until 1984. Her relationship with the school including her years as a student span some fifty years. She attended Boiling Springs Junior College from 1933-1935 and retired for the second time in 1984.

Mrs. Edwards was honored by the students on three occasions as she had yearbooks dedicated to her in 1953, 1958 and 1978. In 1962, she was the recipient of the Alumnus of the Year award. In presenting the award, Rev. T.W. Estees said, "Her fine sense of integrity, her high standards for student citizenship and scholarship, her constant Christian service and her personal dignity make her symbolic of all that is Gardner-Webb."

Prof. Seth Washburn, another son of Joe C. Washburn, taught mathematics, physics, and biology at Gardner-Webb from 1956-1960. Prof. Washburn, while at Gardner-Webb, managed the college tree farm for a number of years and set out hundreds of trees on the school's uncultivated land. After Gardner-Webb, he taught at Louisburg College and served as head of the Biology Department until his retirement.

Ray Scism, a sister to the Washburns, has one of the longest tenures of service to the school – forty-four years, 1946 - 1990. She was a medical office assistant to the doctors, including her two brothers .

The other brothers and sisters in this family have all been good citizens and have lived very productive lives. Dietz Washburn was very much involved in the restoration of the Hamrick Hall after it was destroyed by fire in 1937. He was also superintendent for the building of the John R. Dover, Jr. Memorial Chapel.

Dr. A. V. Washburn, Jr. (a cousin) was elected Executive Secretary of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1958. Dr. Washburn graduated from Gardner-Webb Junior College in 1929, then graduated with highest honors from Wake Forest in 1933. He held a master's degree from George Peabody College and a Ph.D from Baylor University.

Another family with deep roots at Gardner-Webb are the descendants of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Huggins, Sr. There were three children born into this family: Rachel (Mrs. Karl Hedrick); J.D. Huggins, Jr., and Evelyn.

Rachel Huggins and Karl Hedrick met while they were attending the College and eventually married. All six of their children graduated from Gardner-Webb. They are: Mrs. Allen Jones (Sonya) 1959, Boiling Springs, NC; Mrs. Wakefield Hamrick (Amelia) 1961, Lexington, N.C.; Karl Hedrick, Jr. 1963, Raleigh, NC; Mrs. Clyde Buckner (Susie) 1964, Poplar Springs Church area; and Mrs. Fred Edwards (Ginger) 1973, Summerville, SC.

J. D. Huggins, Jr. (Dwyre) graduated from Boiling Springs High School in 1926. The grandson of J.D. Huggins, Jr., James R. (Sonny) Huggins, graduated in 1958. The wife of Sonny Huggins (Teresa Hamrick Huggins) graduated in 1962. Other descendants of J.D. Huggins, Jr. have also graduated from Gardner-Webb.

Also, deeply rooted at Gardner-Webb is the family of E.B. Hamrick, Boiling Springs merchant and longtime supporter of the school. The story was told earlier of the founding of C.J. Hamrick and Sons Store in Boiling Springs and how E.B. Hamrick eventually took over the operation of the store. Also, the roles of O.P. Hamrick and Clifford Hamrick, sons of E.B. Hamrick, have been mentioned. E.B. was one of several persons about whom the argument could be made that without his support the school would have closed because of lack of money.

All children of E.B. Hamrick attended the school in the high school or college period, and some twenty grandchildren also attended Gardner-Webb, as well as a number of great-grandchildren. Several persons who attended Gardner-Webb married into the Hamrick family, including William K. (Bill) Elliott who married C.E. Hamrick's daughter, Ann, and Billy

Ellis who married Patti Elliott, daughter of Bill and Ann Elliott.

Hamricks have served on the Board of Trustees beginning with E. B. Hamrick. Two of his sons served as trustees - C.E. Hamrick (Clifford) and C. Rush Hamrick, Sr., as did two grandsons, Felix Hamrick and Clifford E. Hamrick, Jr.

The Kincaid family has been closely associated with Gardner-Webb. Arnold W. Kincaid, class of 1926, was named the Alumnus of the Year for 1957. Arnold Kincaid was a resident of Kings Mountain and a successful manufacturer with plants in Bessemer City.

Arnold Kincaid was quoted as saying at the alumni banquet in 1957, "About the best thing I can say about my family in connection with Boiling Springs is that I met my wife, Janie Sue Dodd, here. Our oldest daughter, Iva Jean, met her husband, Bob Beason, here. Our next daughter, Sarah, met Bobby Ray Bush here and Edith Kincaid and David Kincaid also attended Gardner-Webb."

On October 30, 1959 the school announced the launching of a new fund drive for \$550,000 for major capital improvements. Money was to be used for four major projects: (1) a new science building, (2) a new administration building, (3) liquidation of the college debt of \$150,000, and (4) capital improvements to the athletic facilities.

The addition of the science building would complete the buildings encircling the quad except for the Charles I. Dover Campus Center to be built later on the site of the Huggins-Curtis Building. The president's office and other administrative offices at this time were in the E.B. Hamrick Hall. While athletic facilities had been greatly improved, football games in 1959 were being played at the Shelby High School stadium. Basketball was played in the Bost Gymnasium and the baseball field was located on campus in the general area of the present Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.

At a kick-off dinner to launch the \$550,000 fundraising campaign, Dr. Henry M. Moffett, pastor of Gastonia's First Presbyterian Church, spoke of the value of the small college. He said, "No one can measure what this college or any Christian college means to the communities." He added that a survey of N.C. junior colleges was taken in an effort to discover a model pattern for what a good junior college should be and revealed that two schools met the standards: the Baptists' Gardner-Webb and the Presbyterians' Lees-McRae. (Shelby Daily Star, November 30, 1959)

Congressman Brooks Hays of Arkansas spoke at the founders and homecoming activities in the fall of 1959. Twice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Hays said, "We must seek to solve the world problems on a right basis - a Christian basis. I hope the day never comes when the state will have a monopoly on education. It has been the Christian school that has been especially able to deal with distraught people in troubled times."

Meanwhile, Mrs. Mae C. Stroup of Shelby, for whom Stroup Dormitory was named, had become chairwoman of the Board of Trustees. *The Gardner-Webb Quarterly* of February 1961 reported that Mrs. Stroup, a businesswoman and college benefactor, had been re-elected chairwoman at the meeting of the trustees on November 24, 1960.

The article further added that Mrs. Stroup's election (1959) marked the first time in history that a woman had been named to a full term of office as chair of the Board of Trustees for a North Carolina Baptist college.

In the spring of 1961, the school was running smoothly. There had been two recent successful fundraising campaigns, and faculty morale was good. According to a 1944 school policy regarding retirement, Dr. Elliott's retirement would have become mandatory on August 1, 1962.

However, at the annual president's dinner in December 1960, Dr. Elliott announced, "I have a conviction that for the best interest of the College perhaps it will be better that my presidency be terminated August 1, 1961 rather than August 1, 1962 when my retirement becomes mandatory. That conviction is based on the following considerations only: (1) the time that may be necessary to secure my successor, (2) the time that may be necessary to reorganize the administration, and (3) the requirements of the program of advance contemplated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina."

Mrs. Mae Stroup, chairwoman of the Board of Trustees, named the following committee to serve as a selection committee and recommend to the trustees a new president: J. R. Dover, Jr., chairman; Claude S. Hinson; Mrs. O. Max Gardner; Leonard Lowe, and Clifford Hamrick. Dr. Eugene Poston, faculty member was named advisor to the group.

Dr. Elliott, although asking to retire one year earlier than required, seemed to be feeling well in the spring of 1961. Despite some lingering financial problems, the school's financial health was good.

Dr. Elliott came to his office as usual on the morning of April 14, 1961. He had greeted colleagues and gone to his desk in the president's office in the Webb Hall when, shortly thereafter, he suffered a heart attack. Vice-president Lawson Allen and business manager Mike Gordon were in the hall outside the president's office when the heart attack struck, and were with Dr. Elliott when he died.

There was shock and dismay on campus at the sudden death of Dr. Elliott. It was difficult to think of Gardner-Webb without thinking of P.L. Elliott. Most students knew Dr. Elliott because of his regular talks in chapel and his friendly greetings on campus.

The school had grown and progressed in many ways during the presidency of Dr. Elliott. When he accepted the presidency in 1943, the College had fewer than 100 students and twelve staff members with total assets of \$300,000. In 1961 there was a student body of 640; the campus consisted of thirty-six buildings; and the total assets of the college were close to \$3 million.

While Dr. Elliott was proud and thankful for this type of progress, these were probably not the things for which he would most want to be remembered. Dr. Elliott would probably want to be remembered first as a teacher who had the ability to make literature meaningful to students, and as a president who helped preserve and promote the Christian heritage of the school. Dr. Elliott was also proud of the scholarly Christian faculty which the school had recruited and always emphasized the importance of the classroom teacher.

President Elliott had emphasized throughout his presidency the concept of community service by the College and had been involved in the life of the larger Gardner-Webb community. He was for many years a deacon and Sunday School teacher in the Boiling Springs Baptist Church, and a member and past president of the Shelby Rotary Club. He had been a trustee of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, president of the North Carolina conference in 1952, member of the Governor's Commission on Adult Education in North Carolina, and a member of the Governor's Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

On April 12, two days before his death, Dr. Elliott had addressed the student body in chapel. In an article written for the press by Doris Jones, Dean of Women, she explained that after the familiar greeting in chapel of "Ladies and Gentlemen of Gardner-Webb College," Dr. Elliott had offered these remarks: "For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the

flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come." (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

Miss Jones reported that Dr. Elliott then issued a challenge to youth in a quote (author unknown): "One has said we need a faith to live by, a person to live^d with, and a work to live for." As Dr. Elliott continued, he said that youth must be equipped with three things: "a mind, a spirit, and the facts." Miss Jones wrote that it seemed premonitory that at a point in his message, Dr. Elliott paused to say, "I know the bell will ring, but I'm going to finish these few lines and then we'll go." The lines were from Tennyson's "Ulysses":

*I am a part of all that I have met; Yet all
experience is an arch where thro' Gleams that
untravell'd world whose margin fades For ever
and for ever when I move. (Biblical Recorder,
4-29-61)*

Dr. Elliott had been preparing for the scheduled end of his presidency on August 1, 1961. It was appropriate that some of the accolades came before his unexpected death on April 14, 1961. In the Kings Mountain Baptist Association minutes of 1961, there appeared a tribute of dedication to Dr. Philip Lovin Elliott written by Rev. T. Max Linnens, pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church on April 9, 1961, five days before Dr. Elliott's death:

*In 1943, a teacher came down from the
mountains of Western North Carolina to be
president of Gardner-Webb College. He
possessed the tenacious spirit of true mountain
folk which refuses to know when it is whipped.
He was possessed by a dream - a dream of a
fellowship of learning where young minds could
be stretched and young souls fired in an
atmosphere of greatness. A man who wouldn't
quit came to the little school that had refused to
die. He has seen much of his dream come true.
The school of three buildings and 70 students has
grown to 24 buildings, 1,100 acres of land and
some 650 students. But his deeper mark has been
made in the lives of the faculty and church
members among whom he lived, and in the minds
and hearts of the students who were touched by
his spirit.*

Dr. Elliott had made his farewell remarks to the faculty at their monthly meeting on April 4, 1961,

A New President And A Time Of Growth

and his words were recorded in the Kings Mountain Associational Minutes as follows:

To me these have been glorious years. We haven't done all we've dreamed, as I come to the end of the official journey... In conclusion, it is my hope that this institution, under God, with your dedication, scholarship, and devotion will be dedicated to the production of human beings that will be of value and have integrity.

The associational minutes for that year also included these remarks about Dr. Elliott:

His biggest dream was the College that he helped to construct, to mold, to lead, to inspire. And all the little dreams took their places within this big dream for the little college whose leadership he took in hand eighteen years ago. Into this college he poured his strengths, his abilities, his imaginations - indeed his life these eighteen years.

In a *Charity and Children* article of April 27, 1961, the following editorial appeared:

THE GREATEST MONUMENT

The greatest editorial tribute that could be written to Dr. Phil Elliott was written by the hundreds who filed by his open casket two weeks ago, as the body of this fallen president of Gardner-Webb College lay in state preceding the funeral service.

They came with work-callused hands, in tailor-made suits, or in ivy league sport coats. Some were bent with age, and others had the rippling muscles of football players. There were college girls, mothers, and grandmothers in the number. All had one word on their lips as they filed by - "Friend." Many could have added "Teacher," for they were his former students. For Phil Elliott had thousands of friends among the great and near great, among lean mountain



President Elliott and other dignitaries at the ground breaking for Bost Physical Education Building

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farmers, and among the countless Marys and Joes who make up our country. Seldom is such a cross-section of North Carolinians drawn together, for seldom does one live who understands and is understood by as many as was Phil Elliott. On its way to the cemetery the

funeral procession slowed, though not by design, before the Webb Hall the campus where Dr. Elliott had worked tirelessly to build a Christian college. Words attributed to Christopher Wren came to mind: "If you would see his monument look about you."



The Arch

The Junior College Becomes A Four-year School

Facing Dr. Phil Elliott's August 1 retirement, on March 13, 1961 the trustees named Dr. E. Eugene Poston president-elect of Gardner-Webb College. It was a prescient move, one that would lend continuity and order when one month later Dr. Elliott was dead, and Dr. Poston was asked to assume the presidency.

Since 1959 Dr. Poston had chaired Gardner-Webb's Department of Religion. The eighth president, he was the second who had graduated from the institution and the first who was an alumnus of the College. J.R. Cantrell, the school's sixth president, graduated from the high school in 1911.

After graduating from Gardner-Webb in 1943, Dr. Poston attended Wake Forest and graduated *cum laude* in 1944 with a B.A. in theology, then earned B.D., Th.M. and Th.D. degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY.

He pastored churches while a student at Wake Forest and at seminary. In 1956, while serving at First Baptist Church in Wallace, NC, he was president of the N.C. Pastor's Conference.

Dr. Poston left a pastorate at First Baptist Church in Jonesboro, GA to come to Gardner-Webb in 1959. Dr. Elliott had talked with him about coming to the College earlier, but Poston was reluctant to leave his ministry. Later, the two men talked by phone; Elliott told Poston that he had not hired anyone to head the Department of Religion and that he was waiting for him to take the job.

Dr. Poston said that he had always had a desire to teach, so he decided to take the move to Gardner-Webb as a challenge. He had no way of knowing then how fast that challenge would come - or how major it would be. And it would not be in the classroom; in less than two years Poston would be president of Gardner-Webb.

The presidential search committee reportedly studied a long list of prospects before recommending Dr. Poston.



**Dr. E. Eugene Poston
President 1961-1976**

Though he was the faculty representative on the committee, discussion of his talent for leadership seemingly occurred when Dr. Poston was not present.

At a meeting on March 13, 1961 John R. Dover, Jr., chairman of the search committee, recommended to the Board of Trustees that Dr. E. Eugene Poston be elected the president of Gardner-Webb.

In accepting, Dr. Poston said, "As a member of the committee, I felt we had been looking for God's man; I never dreamed the task would fall on me....It's the greatest challenge I have ever faced but with unity among trustees and faculty, I see the greatest future for Gardner-Webb of any college anywhere."

In a newspaper interview, Dr. Poston indicated that he had spent a whole night in prayer before agreeing to serve. The fact that John R. Dover, Jr. was chairman of the search committee and had known Dr. Poston for many years was likely a factor in Mr. Dover's support.

On the President's page in the *Gardner-Webb Quarterly* of May 1961, Dr. Poston wrote:

The temptation comes to me to use my page in a eulogy to Dr. Philip Lovin Elliott who went to his eternal reward April 15, 1961. I was with him a few minutes before he moved out of this "old house." He was jubilant and happy that morning. As I look back, I believe he knew something great was in store for him. There was. His coronation experience.

We feel his presence here at Gardner-Webb, and on every hand are evidences of his faith and work. However, we must be reminded that a death of a Christian is never a tragedy; it is always a victory. Let us praise God for Dr. Elliott and remember Mrs. Elliott and the children in our daily prayers.

Now we must look to the future. Gardner-Webb faces her most glorious and effective days. Our campaign manager from Marts and Lundy (a fundraising organization) said last year that Gardner-Webb has greater support from its friends and people of the surrounding areas than any other college with which he has worked.

Earlier presidents, especially in the 1930s, never knew a moment of financial abundance; no ample funding cushion ever invited serious plans for long-range growth. But things did get better. By 1961, the money situation had improved to the point that Dr. Poston could with some confidence recommend a ten-year plan of development.

These goals were to be reached by 1971:

1. *To enroll a student body of 1,000*
2. *To enlist a faculty of 75*
3. *To reach an endowment of \$3,000,000*
4. *To build: a chapel; auditorium; classroom building; fine arts building; student-faculty campus center; four dormitories, and a stadium*
5. *To reach senior college status*

The on-going tradition of choosing an ordained minister as president began in 1928 with James Blaine Davis. Only A.C. Lovelace (1935—1936), went into the ministry and was ordained after his service as president. The feeling has evidently been that a minister of the gospel, as president, would maintain a strong emphasis on Christian education.

A *Charlotte Observer* article on April 5, 1962 noted that the new president was spending his time doing what comes naturally, "staying busy."

Keeping busy had long been Dr. Poston's habit. The new president "came up hard," as people used to say. At fourteen, he was working a full evening shift in the Dover Mill in Shelby and keeping up with his high school work at the same time. Working his job delayed his graduation until he was nineteen. In a *Cleveland Times* article of April 4, 1968 Dr. Poston said he believed he would never have obtained an education without the assistance of the Dover family of Shelby.

Dr. Poston and his four brothers had all become Eagle scouts. In 1964, Judge E.Y. Webb presented the Eagle scout award to Bobby Poston, the youngest brother. According to Piedmont scout executive R.M.

Schiele, the Poston family was the first in America to have five sons who were Eagle scouts. In presenting the award to Bobby Poston, the last son in the family to receive the award, Judge Webb said, "This is a night that belongs to Mrs. Poston (their mother), a Dover Mill employee who guided her sons into a channel which has no parallel in the building of character." Dr. Poston often referred to the positive influence of his mother on his life.

Long hours continued for Dr. Poston when he headed Gardner-Webb. On April 5, 1962 a *Shelby Daily Star* article said that his school duties normally began at 8:00 a.m. at his desk and ended there about 6:00 p.m. Often lunch and dinner hours, and many evenings, were committed to speaking engagements at civic clubs and other organizations. He frequently preached on Sundays.

The building program begun with Phil Elliott continued in the Poston administration. The first section of the Webb Hall honoring Mrs. Fay Webb Gardner and the Webb family, was dedicated on May 12, 1961. A gift from the Gardner family, it had been completed at a cost of \$75,000 and was occupied in October 1960. Ralph Gardner, oldest son of O. Max Gardner, Sr., presented the building and O. Max Gardner, Jr., whose efforts made the building possible, was present for the program on the lawn of the new administration building.

Dr. Poston, as had Dr. Elliott, often spoke of what he considered the essence of Gardner-Webb. At a trustees' meeting in 1961, Dr. Poston cited the need to re-emphasize several strong points characteristic of the College:

1. *The Christian environment in which Jesus Christ can feel completely at home.*
2. *The concern for each individual student and faculty, staff, and administration member as a person created in the image of God.*
3. *The free enterprise and American patriotic spirit.*
4. *An open door to all students who are willing to abide by the rules of Gardner-Webb College, and to keep the college doors open to the whole range of students.*
5. *The campus code that sets forth guidance for decent living and goodly appearance.*
6. *The love and appreciation for the Baptist churches and the Baptist State Convention,*

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for the college is proud to be a part of the Baptist family of North Carolina.

The success of any college or university is closely related to the support of the alumni. A.A. Powell, prominent Shelby attorney, was serving as president of the Gardner-Webb Alumni Association in the early 1960s. Writing in the alumni quarterly of May 1961, Judge Powell called upon the alumni and friends of the school to continue with the vision of an even greater college:

Where there is no vision, the people perish. And it may well be said that where there is no vision, our Baptist colleges will perish, and if our Baptist institutions perish, our Baptist denomination will likewise perish.

We must now join hands with our new president, Dr. Eugene Poston, and under his capable leadership and dedicated spirit march onward to greater and nobler things for Gardner-Webb College and the hosts of young boys and girls it is now serving and will serve and bless in the years to come."

On November 10, 1961 one who had led faithfully toward these higher aims died. O. Max Gardner, Jr. died at the age of thirty-nine. Stricken with multiple sclerosis in February 1950, over the next three years he lost his ability to talk and became almost totally paralyzed. He did not, however, shrink from public life. Those who visited Gardner during his illness received inspiration and marveled at his sense of humor, coupled with his determination to fight the disease.

Among his visitors occasionally would be a person who had known Max, Jr. when he was a boy in Raleigh while his father was governor. Several of those visitors had, at the time his father was governor, been prisoners in Central Prison and had come by Shelby to pay a friendly visit with Max, Jr.

O. Max Gardner, Jr. had served as honorary chairman of the Gardner-Webb Development Fund and had served at one time as trustee and college treasurer. At twenty-four, he was elected to the Board of Trustees at UNC and continued on important committees of the Greater University.

In business, Max, Jr. had followed numerous pursuits. From March to September 1946, he was assistant to the president of Cleveland Cloth Mills. Later he was president of the Cleveland Realty Company and vice-president of the Gardner Land

Company. Active in church work, he taught the Century Bible Class at First Baptist Church in Shelby.

Max, Jr. had in many ways lived a full life. His attitude toward his sickness and imminent death coupled with his exemplary life were an inspiration to many people.

On April 16, 1962, one year after assuming leadership, Dr. Eugene Poston was officially inaugurated as president. The program climaxed five days of ceremonial activities. In his inaugural address, the new president set his task:

Our purpose at Gardner-Webb is to give the highest possible academic program within the deepest possible spiritual atmosphere. We should provide a quality education for these students who are committed to the Christian way of life in an unusual manner, whether they plan to become doctors, lawyers, businessmen, farmers, industrialists, home builders, missionaries, pastors, and a host of other callings too numerous to name.

Governor Terry Sanford told the gathering, "It would be a dreadful day if church-supported colleges ceased to grow and expand, and exert an influence upon education." He added that he hoped the nation would always maintain its historical balance between church-related and state-supported colleges, because the state cannot bear the entire burden of education.

In writing on the President's page in the May 1962 *Gardner-Webb Quarterly*, Dr. Poston asked a rhetorical question, "What is a Christian college?" He then offered his opinion: A Christian college is "one characterized by Christian convictions in the minds and hearts of the faculty and staff of the college. There is no place on the staff or the faculty of a Christian college for a person who does not possess Christian convictions."

President Elliott had drawn some key administrators from men he had known in his earlier experiences in western North Carolina. Likewise, President Poston named several top administrators from people he had known in college and/or seminary.

Two of these who came in the summer of 1962 were Rev. R.W. Abrams as Director of Promotions and Thomas J. McGraw as Director of Development. Abrams and Poston had been classmates at Gardner-Webb, Wake Forest, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and the two families had developed a friendship. Mrs. Poston (Dorothy

Jenkins) was from Shelby and Mrs. Abrams (Elva Spake) from Casar.

Rev. Bob Abrams' ties with the Baptists of North Carolina both as a student and as a Baptist leader gave him a good understanding of North Carolina Baptists. Rev. Abrams came to Gardner-Webb from the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Sylva, NC. Previously he had been pastor of the Dearview Baptist Church in Asheville. He taught seminary extension courses and had served in many capacities in the NC Baptist State Convention, including the General Board. At the time he came to Gardner-Webb, he was moderator of the Tuckaseegee Association and was one of the directors of the Biblical Recorder.

Abrams came to Gardner-Webb as Director of Promotions in 1962. In this position he developed news stories for the yearbook and other college publications. He served as Director of Development from 1965-1967; as Director of Admissions from 1967-1977; and as Director of Church Relations from 1977-1981. In 1981, he took the position of Registrar, an office he held until his retirement in 1985.

As Director of Church Relations, his responsibility was to assist people in the churches to better understand Gardner-Webb and higher education with emphasis on the types of financial aid available and the unique programs available to students. Mr. Abrams was a good ambassador for Gardner-Webb at Baptist meetings across North Carolina.

At various times, Mr. Abrams taught classes at Gardner-Webb. He also preached in many Baptist churches in the area and is still active as an interim pastor. He is also active in the Boiling Springs Baptist Church where he serves as a deacon.

Since his retirement in 1985, Mr. Abrams has been much involved in college programs and activities, especially the Christian Service Organization and the Bulldog Club. Rev. Abrams was named Bulldog of the Year, 1989-90. He and other family members established the Fred L. and Sallie N. Abrams endowed scholarship in the Christian Service Organization in honor of his parents. His wife, Elva, also established a scholarship in recognition of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kelly Spake. In 1993 Kay Abrams, daughter of Bob and Elva Abrams, established a Christian Service Scholarship in honor of her parents.

Thomas J. McGraw, who also came to Gardner-Webb in 1962, was also a graduate of Wake Forest and had known Dr. Poston for some time. Mr. McGraw was a graduate of Appalachian State Teachers College

with an M.A. degree and did further graduate work at Duke University. Originally he came to Gardner-Webb as Director of Development.

With the addition of these two men, the administrative staff was in place. Other top administrators in the fall of 1962 were M.W. Gordon, Jr., Business Manager; Dr. E.M. Keebler, Academic Dean; Mrs. Dorothy W. Hamrick, Registrar; Rev. Donald Moore, Director of Guidance; Prof. Francis B. Dedmon, Director of Cultural and Creative Activities; and Robert Isner, Dean of Students.

The 1963 edition of the *Anchor* was dedicated to Prof. Hubert C. Dixon. Mr. Dixon began teaching in 1935, during the Boiling Springs Junior College era. In 1936, he became dean of the College and served as dean until 1942 when he entered the United States Navy, serving as an officer until discharged in 1945.

The editors of the *Anchor*, the school yearbook, wrote in dedication:

Every student admires certain characteristics in a teacher. Some of these characteristics are patience, kindness, understanding, and above all, a dedication and a sincerity toward his work. The teacher should be a devout Christian seeking through his work to serve the pupils, his school, his community, and his God. We of the 1963 Anchor staff believe that all these and many other characteristics have been exhibited by Mr. Dixon.

Hubert Dixon was a demanding professor of mathematics who expected his students to study and perform well. In the April 13, 1974 *Biblical Recorder*, Woodrow W. Hill wrote, "Students at Gardner-Webb joke about needing a Ph.D. (Pass Hubert Dixon) to graduate from the institution. They are referring to their encounters with the dry-witted chairman of the Department of Math and Science."

When Mr. Dixon asked in 1935 what his salary would be, the response was simply, "We'll take care of you." There were times when he wondered how far that care could stretch. Mr. Dixon chaired the Board of Deacons at Boiling Springs Baptist Church, taught Sunday School and was also the Sunday School superintendent. He worked in the Boiling Springs Lions Club and served as a zone chairman and district governor of Lions International.

To broaden and sustain the base of Gardner-Webb's support, Dr. Poston began to weave for the school networks of friends from many stations of life. In 1963 he drew together some 100 people into a Board of

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Advisors. The board was made up of ten committees, each with a chairman and a representative from the Board of Trustees.

The board's purpose was to survey the school's needs, keep the trustees informed, help them carry through on school programs and in improvement of functions and services.

In 1971, a Board of Ministerial Associates was established. Its members included 131 Baptist ministers from throughout the College's area of service. Explaining the role of this board, Dr. Poston said, "First of all, member ministers will help Gardner-Webb fulfill its stated purpose of developing quality Christian students who think for themselves and who will dedicate themselves to the Christian way of life in the vocations of their choice." He explained that they could do this in many ways, including maintaining the close church-campus relationship, enlisting students and qualified faculty, finding ways to help needy students, helping build a strong financial foundation for the College, and advising on ways the College could serve Baptist people.

As a nurturing community for the school, the influence of the town of Boiling Springs upon Gardner-Webb goes beyond all estimation. After 1942, when the school's name was changed to Gardner-Webb, it nonetheless continued to be "Boiling Springs School" in almost everything but name. Mayor Robert Y. Hamrick, quoted in a July 4, 1964 *Shelby Daily Star* article, said, "There is no definite line where the College ends and the town begins."

In that same piece, Dr. Poston said, "When Boiling Springs improves itself, it improves the College, and when we go raising money for the College, we are also raising it for Boiling Springs."

The town and college have thought of themselves as one throughout much of the history of the school. This could also be said of relationships between the College and Boiling Springs Baptist Church.

As the College continued to keep close ties with the churches and people of the surrounding area, there were demographic changes in the student population. By 1964, there were enrolled at Gardner-Webb students from five foreign countries, fifteen of the fifty states, and fifty-seven of the 100 counties in the Tar Heel State. While the student body was primarily Baptist, there were twenty-two religious faiths represented. The enrollment was becoming more heterogenous and cosmopolitan.

In all the changes and growth that had occurred during the history of the school, nothing may have

been more significant than these demographic changes. The school was becoming better known in an ever-larger geographic area, one in which even oceans were no obstacle.

Growth itself began to appear boundless. On September 21, 1965 an article in *The Shelby Daily Star* announced that the O. Max Gardner Foundation had that week presented Gardner-Webb with a substantial check as first payment on a pledge for a new and yet unannounced and unspecified building. According to the article, during Governor Gardner's lifetime he personally and through his law firm and corporate interests had contributed approximately one million dollars to Gardner-Webb.

After his death in 1947, the directors and officers of the O. Max Gardner Foundation attempted to carry out Mr. Gardner's wishes as set forth in his will. The will had specified that the Foundation should devote the main portion of its assets and income to Gardner-Webb College's support and maintenance and for college scholarships and student loans.

An administrative change occurred in the fall of 1966 when Dr. J. Thurman Lewis became Dean of Instruction. Dr. Lewis first came to the College in 1964 as Assistant Professor of Greek and Speech. In 1965-1966, he became Assistant Professor of Latin, Greek, and Bible.

Dr. Lewis earned his Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Theology degrees at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, LA, and then served as a pastor in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Maryland before coming to Gardner-Webb. On becoming dean, Dr. Lewis said, "The greatest challenge of my office was planning the curriculum for the future four-year status at Gardner-Webb." Dr. Lewis played a significant role in the early planning of that new curriculum.

In 1966 Mike Gordon left the office of Business Manager. Mr. Gordon's leaving Gardner-Webb was somewhat abrupt and unexpected by the faculty. Both Dr. Poston and Mr. Gordon were determined, dedicated, and strong-willed individuals. Mr. Gordon came to the school during the Elliott administration because he felt that he could render a Christian service. Working with Dr. Elliott, Mr. Gordon seemingly was given the power to make or strongly recommend financial decisions. Mr. Gordon and Dr. Poston may have run into difficulty defining the role of the business manager.

In July of 1966, it was announced that Charles Mack, Jr., owner of an insurance company in

Gastonia, would succeed Gordon as business manager. Mr. Mack was a 1948 alumnus of Gardner-Webb Junior College and a 1950 graduate of Catawba College with a degree in accounting.

Throughout the nation, and most intensely across the South, the 1960s and 1970s brought significant changes in race relations. Some background should help explain the setting in which Gardner-Webb, as well as other schools, dealt with these massive shifts in thought, conscience, law, habit and public policy.

Gardner-Webb, like most "white" colleges in the South traditionally had not accepted black students. Separation of races prevailed even in graduate schools. With the integration of the Armed Forces of the United States in 1948, the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court ruling in 1954 and other Supreme Court rulings and Civil Rights Acts of the period, Gardner-Webb, like other schools, began to rethink standing policies. In the American South, segregation of the races had prevailed not just in schools but in doctors' offices, parks, public transportation, theatres, restaurants, stores, churches, and all public accommodations even to drinking fountains.

Two opposing views on racially integrating Gardner-Webb seemed to predominate. A *Shelby Daily Star* editorial in February 1956 reported, "The clergy in the area for the most part support the admittance of black students." In adopting this view, as explained, "Ministers worked within the realm of the Christian concept that declares all men brothers." Outside of the ministry, that view was far less universal. The editorial explained that the school had done surveys of student, faculty and area residents' opinions. The results were not published but as the *Shelby Daily Star* hypothesized, the school must have received considerable negative reaction. The editorial continued that it was the job of the Board of Trustees and administration to decide what was best for the College, not whether integrated classes were right or wrong. One church, it was pointed out, had made public its decision to withhold support if a black student should be admitted. Other churches had voted similarly but had not made their decisions public.

Because the school had not already admitted black students, it received some criticism. Some argued that the school should do what was morally right, not what was expedient. In remarks published in the *Gardner-Webb Quarterly* of May 1955, Dr. Elliott spoke of guaranteeing to everyone freedom of opportunity and privilege in a free society regardless

of color of skin. In his inaugural address, Dr. Poston had stated that Gardner-Webb should be open to all students regardless of race. That policy was implemented in the Poston administration with little fanfare when two black students, Joyce Watkins and Hazel Barrow, entered Gardner-Webb in the fall of 1963. At the May graduation in 1965, Joyce Watkins, who lived in North Carolina but had a Gaffney, SC address, became the first Black graduate of Gardner-Webb. Miss Watkins was a member of the Day Student Association, secretary-treasurer of the International Relations Club, a delegate to the United Nations Model Assembly, and a reporter for the college newspaper. She was honored on Awards Day in 1965 for outstanding work in the social sciences. Joyce Watkins was later one of the first black students to graduate from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Since 1965, many black students have enrolled at Gardner-Webb and harmony has prevailed. In 1971, eight years after the first black student was admitted, the first black professor, Dr. Logan Carson, joined the Gardner-Webb faculty as Assistant Professor of Religion. Blind since birth, Dr. Carson came to Gardner-Webb from Montclair College in Montclair, N.J. Prior to his work at Montclair College, he taught for three years at Waka Schools, Bui, in northeastern Nigeria. At the time of Dr. Carson's appointment, President Poston remarked, "He is the type of person who has converted his life-long handicap (blindness) into an asset." Dr. Carson left Gardner-Webb in the fall of 1994 to teach at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, NC.

The 1960s and 1970s were years in which there was considerable unrest and violence on many college campuses in America. Often these upheavals were related to the Viet Nam War or the Civil Rights Movement. While Gardner-Webb students were concerned about both issues, the campus remained free of disruption. Dr. Poston recalled that he was willing during his presidency to talk in a reasonable way to any student or students who had a grievance or who wanted to discuss school policy. However, Poston held firmly that mob violence and disorderly protest would not be tolerated. Some young men left school to serve in the military, and some Gardner-Webb women began a letter writing campaign to service men in Viet Nam. For one group of women in H.A.P.Y. residence hall, the letters began when one coed saw a note in a newspaper pleading for mail from back home.

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Gardner-Webb occasionally made the news during this period for other reasons. Dr. Poston, with the support of the Board of Trustees, developed a code of behavior and dress - this in an almost universal time of "hippies" and "anything goes."

The administration maintained that since first impressions beget lingering judgments, employers would be hesitant to hire people with the hippie look. Dr. Poston recently said that the basic purpose of the campus code was to get people at Gardner-Webb serious about Christian education and about following rules. There were at least two codes relating to appropriate dress and behavior in this period. Some of the more salient points were:

- (1) *The Constitutionally-guaranteed right to peaceful protest will be protected, but students or others on this campus are not guaranteed and will not be permitted the right to interfere with orderly administrative and educational processes. There shall be no use of violence, force, obscene or indecorous language or conduct in protests or demonstrations.*
- (2) *The right of approved speakers to present their views on campus without heckling or disturbance will be protected.*
- (3) *Approved business, professional, industrial, governmental or other recruiters or representatives will be permitted to carry out their objectives on this campus without handicap or prevention.*
- (4) *Any Gardner-Webb student found guilty of violating any of these policies, after proper hearing with due process observed, will be subject to suspension or expulsion, depending upon the flagrancy of violation.*
- (5) *Anyone who is not a student or employee of Gardner-Webb College will be denied entrance to this campus or required to depart from this campus if it can reasonably be expected that he will violate or advocate violation of any of these policies.*
- (6) *If it becomes necessary to call upon civil authorities for assistance in maintaining order on campus, these civil authorities will be obeyed.*
- (7) *Unkempt appearance Men - appropriately dressed at all times with hair neat, clean, well-styled and above the collar; moderate AFRO; no beards. Women - neatly and*

appropriately dressed and in keeping with the campus dress code. Disrespectful and/or insubordinate behavior. Failure to respond to an official notice from an administrator, faculty, or SGA will be considered insubordinate behavior.

In retrospect, there were some rather interesting and somewhat amusing incidents during the 1960s and early 1970s related to the dress code, especially hair-length rules. One young man, when told by the Dean of Students that his hair was too long and that he must get his hair cut, went to the local barber shop, had his hair cut, and told the barber to charge the haircut to the Dean of Students.

Of course, hair-policy and other rules drew some criticism from students. The *Shelby Daily Star* reported that hair length was the controversial issue of the moment on the Gardner-Webb campus. One student was said to claim that he had not been given a room for the next year because of the length of his hair. (Later, he did get a room.) In time the campus code was revised to remove hair-length as, seemingly, the only divisive issue.

A somber note sounded for the extended Gardner-Webb College family on August 15, 1963 when John R. Dover, Jr., supporter and Trustee, died of leukemia. He had followed in the footsteps of his late father in the textile industry and, at the time of his death, was Chairman of the Board of the Dover Textile group.

John Dover, Jr. was a former Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Gardner-Webb, a regular contributor to the College, and on May 27, 1961 was named Gardner-Webb Alumnus of the Year.

A *Cleveland Times* article of August 16, 1963 commented that "John R. Dover, Jr. was a giant of a man in Cleveland County, following in the footsteps of a hard working father who founded a textile group that literally became the backbone of a



John R. Dover Jr.



**Charles I. Dover and Thomas McGraw,
Vice President**

community. He was a dedicated Christian gentleman, deacon, and leader in his church. He established a shining example that others could - and did - follow."

Work on the campus that Dover and his family had done so much to foster was proceeding. Several academic programs were begun or enhanced in the 1960s just before the school became a senior college. One major addition to the curriculum was the nursing education program. Dr. Poston announced that in the fall of 1965 Gardner-Webb would open a Department of Nursing Education in cooperation with the Rutherford and Cleveland Memorial hospitals. Dr. Poston said that the three years of intense planning by the three institutions was rewarded when the N.C. Board of Nursing encouraged the institutions to proceed with their program.

The College was still a two-year school in 1965, so the degree to be offered was the Associate in Arts in Nursing. Students in the program began preparation to successfully complete the licensure examination of the N.C. Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education.

At that time, the Gardner-Webb School of Nursing was one of three such programs in North Carolina. Similar programs had been established in twenty-nine states. In July 1966, it was announced that full accreditation had been granted to the Gardner-Webb School of Nursing. Dr. Poston praised the work of all concerned including Mrs. Grace Lee, director, and her staff. There were twenty-seven nursing students in the sophomore class for 1966-1967 and forty-five incoming freshmen.

Though not a new program, another academic area that received new emphasis in the 1960s was Theatre Arts. The institution historically had taken pride in its dramatic studies and theatrical events. Mrs. George Burnett, Prof. J.Y. Hamrick, Miss Frances Cuthbertson, Francis B. Dedmond, Mrs. Nettie Gidney and others had directed and produced some very good dramatic productions, including musicals and Shakespearian plays at various sites including E.B. Hamrick Hall, and earlier, in the Huggins-Curtis Building.

Theatre arts gained a new emphasis when C. Robert Jones came to the school as Professor of Speech and Drama in the fall of 1966. During his tenure with the College a major in Theatre Arts was developed.

Mr. Jones, who was director of the Little Theatre in Savannah, GA, when called to Gardner-Webb, held a master's degree from the Speech and Drama Department of Catholic University in Washington, DC. He also studied for a year in France, at the Sorbonne in Paris and the University of Dijon, on a Fulbright scholarship. As an actor, he appeared in productions for several community and church theaters in Washington and in the United States Information Agency's documentary film "The Supreme Court" as well as a segment of the "Route 66" television series. Before coming to Gardner-Webb, he had authored three full-length musicals, all having premiered in Washington, DC. (The *Shelby Daily Star*, November 3, 1966.)

Meanwhile, aiming ahead at four-year status, the building program was in full flower. In February 1965, Dr. Poston announced that a football stadium and track to be called Spangler Memorial Stadium, would be constructed at the College within the next two years. The stadium was to be named as a memorial for the late Ernest Webb Spangler and in honor of his wife, Verna Patrick Spangler. The donors were their sons R. Patrick Spangler and Earl (Bud) Spangler, both of Shelby.

Pat Spangler for many years was active in supporting Gardner-Webb financially and otherwise. He was also involved in many progressive changes in Cleveland County and the state of North Carolina. He played a major role in Cleveland County's industrial development through his work with the Shelby Chamber of Commerce.

Statewide recognition of Spangler's ability came when in 1963 Governor Terry Sanford appointed him to gather businessmen for North Carolina Day at the World's Fair. He also served as a Trade Fair delegate to Europe and was active in other state-level posts.

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In June 1965 Dr. Poston announced that the fieldhouse at the Spangler Stadium would be named for V.F. Hamrick of Shelby. Mr. Hamrick served as Assistant Athletic Director at Wake Forest University from 1904-1908. In 1965, Mr. Hamrick gave a substantial stock gift to Gardner-Webb because, he said, "I could not resist the opportunity to assist a growing college like Gardner-Webb and am proud to be a part of such a worthy cause as Christian higher education."

In April 1965, a contract was let for construction of a \$448,425 facility to be known as the Charles I. Dover Campus Center. It would be located on the site where the old Huggins-Curtis Building burned in 1957.

Charles I. Dover was one of Gardner-Webb's most dedicated benefactors. Through scholarship programs he also helped many students attend the College. A *Cleveland Times* article of February 20, 1971 explained that many children of the employees of the Dover Textile group attended Gardner-Webb through the aid offered by the Dover Foundation. Also, through the Dover Foundation, local and county students competed for scholarships at Gardner-Webb and other colleges and universities.

Interestingly, both Gardner-Webb and Dover Textiles were established in 1907, and the two grew together over the years.

Both Charles I. Dover and his brother, John R. Dover, Jr., served the College as trustees and each served as trustee chairman. Charles I. Dover worked as a day laborer during the summer months when he was eleven years old. He worked as a water boy earning 36 cents a day for an 11-hour shift. His father insisted that he learn the business from the ground up.

That same year Dr. Poston announced that a recently-completed science building would be named in honor of A.T. Withrow of Charlotte, a trustee and benefactor of Gardner-Webb. In the fall of 1966 at homecoming weekend, the A.T. Withrow Building was dedicated along with two other buildings, the Bost Physical Education Building and indoor swimming pool, and the Lutz-Yelton Residence Hall for men. All these buildings were already in use.

The *Gardner-Webb Quarterly* of March 1965 reported that the lack of funds to carry through on his boyhood wish to study medicine gave impetus to Withrow's generosity toward Christian education. Mr. Withrow, a native of Rutherford County, had been involved in real estate and other businesses in the Queen City since 1950. He was a graduate of Duke

University in the class of 1925 and an active supporter of Gardner-Webb.

Lloyd Bost of Shelby, at the time Vice-president and Secretary of Bost Bakery, presented, for the Bost family, the Bost Physical Education Building and Indoor Swimming Pool. Lloyd Bost had been a dedicated supporter of Gardner-Webb for many years. He had served on the College Board of Trustees since 1963 and had served several terms as chairman. Mr. Bost led the College in a number of financial campaign drives, serving as national chairman of the successful capital campaign, "The Future - Building on a Solid Foundation." In 1971, Lloyd Bost received the first honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Gardner-Webb.

In the *Cleveland Times* of July 11, 1965 Dr. Poston announced that a new men's dormitory at Gardner-Webb would be named the Lutz-Yelton Dormitory as requested by four Shelby businessmen: J. Ray Lutz, Lloyd Lutz, Oren (Red) Champion, and Paris Yelton. These men, representing the Lutz-Yelton Company and its stockholders, had made substantial donations to the college's \$1,125,000 campaign. Dr. Poston said, "These four outstanding Cleveland County men have expressed through their actions a firm belief in the future of Gardner-Webb College." The residence hall was dedicated in the fall of 1966, with Paris Yelton presenting the building.

A *Shelby Daily Star* article of December 31, 1966 pointed out a number of significant happenings in that year: The capital fund drive headed by Pat Spangler, who was elected chairman of the college trustees in November, reached \$2,630,000. The College shared a \$37,000 grant by the S & H Foundation to the North Carolina Church Related Colleges, Inc. A series of artist programs was begun in 1966 with ten programs presented during the school year, ranging from a classical pianist and opera to contemporary folk songs. And, the college library received an 800-volume library donated by the Rev. F.A. Brown of Morganton.

Three new residence halls were dedicated during homecoming weekend in October 1967. A.G. Myers, Jr. of Gastonia, C.P. and Irene Nanney of Gastonia, and Charles Mauney of Kings Mountain made the presentation of Myers, Nanney, and Mauney residence halls.

Noting that the Mauney family was Lutheran, the Myers family was Methodist and the Nanney family was Baptist, Dr. Poston said, "In this spirit of Christian unity, we can do great things for the world."

Alfred Myers, Jr. told of the early interest of his father, A.G. Myers, in the College and of his friendship with O. Max Gardner and other supporters of the school. The younger Myers was president of Textiles, Inc. in Gastonia, a firm his father was instrumental in forming. (*Shelby Daily Star*, October 25, 1967)

Alfred G. Myers, for whom Myers Residence Hall for men was named, overcame several obstacles on the way to becoming a philanthropist and successful business man who gave generously to several schools, including Gardner-Webb. In October 1969, Mr. Myers is quoted in a *Shelby Daily Star* editorial, "I've always been concerned for young people and their education. I've never had much formal schooling myself." He completed the fifth grade and went to work at age nine. However, he always kept up with the news by much reading. Mr. Myers first became interested in Gardner-Webb through O. Max Gardner. He once remarked that Mr. Gardner was as good a friend as he ever had. Mr. Myers contributed to the College individually and through Textiles, Inc., the firm he headed until his retirement.

Mrs. C.P. Nanney made the presentation of Nanney Hall. Mr. Nanney was president of Sun Drop Double Cola Bottling Company of Gastonia. In making the 1965 gift, Mr. Nanney explained, "We saw a need and felt we had a great opportunity to help a school that teaches and treats young people in a manner in which we believe."

In March 1971, the College announced a \$60,000 gift from Mr. and Mrs. Nanney. They commented, "We simply want to see as many young people as possible get an education in a school which believes in a free enterprise system." Following this gift, the college baseball field was named Nanney Field.

Charles Mauney, grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. D.C. Mauney of Kings Mountain, said the Mauney family was pleased to be a part of the continuing development of the College. Mauney Hall was named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. W.K. Mauney of Kings Mountain and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. D.C. Mauney.

While buildings on campus were being constructed, several purchases were made by the college trustees. The Gardner-Webb president's home, at the time of Dr. Elliott's death in 1961, was the building on



Boiling Springs Baptist Church Building was sold to Gardner-Webb and converted into a theatre for the Theatre Arts



Dover Chapel

Memorial Drive which for many years has housed WGWG the Gardner-Webb radio station. Dr. Poston lived in this home for several years as had President Elliott.

On February 26, 1968 Hobart Smith, chairman of the Site Committee, reported to the trustees that his committee had inspected the available sites on campus, and it was their unanimous opinion that the College does not own a suitable site for a president's home. The committee further reported that Paul Porter had offered his personal home in River Bend Acres (between Boiling Springs and Shelby) for sale to the College.

After discussion, the trustees voted to purchase the home of Mr. Porter for use as the president's home for \$60,000, of which \$6,000 would be given back to the school. Mr. Smith added that the O. Max Gardner Foundation had agreed to furnish the money for the transaction (up to \$75,000) so that the house could be furnished adequately. Mr. Smith offered to have the grounds landscaped at his expense. This was the first

time that the president's home had been located outside the town of Boiling Springs. Dr. and Mrs. Poston moved into the new home in mid-October 1968.

A much larger purchase was on the horizon. Since the church's gift of the first school site there was a close familial bond between the school and Boiling Springs Baptist Church. Church members treated students as sons and daughters and gave generously to support the school. Twice, one of the church's pastors, Rev. J.L. Jenkins, served as president of the school, refusing pay.

Part of that closeness was physical proximity; outsiders could not tell where church property began and campus ended. That served some needs exceptionally well: students dating on Sunday evenings were in certain eras required to attend church. In the school's earlier history, most students did not have cars - which, for daters, made attending Boiling Springs Baptist Church an imperative.

The relationship between school and church is perhaps nowhere better exemplified than in the school's acquisition of the church property in 1967.

In the past, Gardner-Webb and Boiling Springs Baptist Church had exchanged property within Quinn Circle - the area between the campus and South Main Street on Highway 150 South. The church sanctuary was built in 1920, and two educational buildings were added immediately behind the sanctuary to serve as the educational plant. Some of the land in the southern part of this tract was at one time given to the College by the church to build the Washburn Library. Later, when the church was ready to add to its educational plant, the land was given back to the church.

Previously, Boiling Springs Baptist Church had discussed the possibility of building a new sanctuary within Quinn Circle just south of the existing sanctuary and connecting the sanctuary with one part of the educational plant. These buildings were directly across the street from the E.B. Hamrick Hall and the Huggins-Curtis Building, which burned in 1957. In the 1960s Boiling Springs Baptist Church began seriously considering the possibility of moving to a new site. Both the College and the church were growing. If the church moved to a site outside Quinn Circle, the College might buy the church property which was directly in front of the campus.

At a meeting of a special committee of the school's trustees on April 16, 1966 the trustees studied an offer from the church to sell their church property to the College, then reported, in part: "The

committee is in unanimous agreement that they would like to recommend the purchase of the church property, but due to other expenses felt it was not feasible to purchase the property at this time."

By early 1967, the college trustees decided that it would be possible to proceed with the purchase of the church property and voted to buy it for \$450,000. An original payment of \$50,000 was made to the church in 1967 with the remaining balance due as it was needed by the church for acquisition of land and construction costs. All money was to be delivered to the church by January 1, 1969. Provision was made for the church to pay rent if it had not vacated by that time.

Boiling Springs Baptist Church moved into its new building on South Main Street, south of the campus, in November 1969. Because of the good relationship that existed between the two institutions, the College charged no rent after January 1, 1969. During 1967-1969 the College had classes in these buildings during the week, and the church used the buildings for regular services on Sunday and Wednesday evenings and occasional meetings.

The old sanctuary was at first converted into a lovely theatre and a number of productions were presented there. C. Robert Jones, Director of Theatre Arts, conceived the idea of developing the sanctuary into a theatre by comparing its architecture with several European opera houses. At the time, it was felt that an opera house could benefit the town and surrounding areas. An article in the student newspaper, *The Pilot*, in October 1970, reported that the Opera House might be razed with a chapel being placed on that site. There was a student petition to save the theatre. In a *Pilot* interview Dr. Poston declared the old sanctuary a fire trap lacking running water and adequate heat.

Workmen began tearing down the building in 1971. John R. Dover Memorial Chapel was constructed on the theater site; the steeple was hoisted on June 8, 1972, and the building was dedicated on October 27, 1972.

A *Shelby Daily Star* article on February 26, 1971 reported that the chapel was envisioned by John R. Dover, Jr. who died in 1963. Mr. Dover believed so strongly in the College and its desire to instill Christian teachings in the minds of young people that he spoke many times of an impressive chapel which would be the focal point at the school.

Dr. Poston had worked for the Dovers and had a great appreciation for the family. He once said, "I would never have taken the job as president of Gardner-Webb had it not been for John Dover, Jr. and

Charles Dover. These two men had a great impact upon my life. Both of them offered me encouragement and helped me in other ways while I was in college and seminary."

The school continued to receive many accolades. Speaking at the dedication of the three-story David Lindsay Classroom Building, which was bought from the Boiling Springs Baptist Church in October 1969, George Euting said, "Gardner-Webb is worthy to live and too tough to die because God's hand is clearly upon this school." Mr. Euting continued, "This school stands for a Christian climate without compromise, with emphasis upon the Holy Bible as the focal point of the education. At the same time, this school stresses high quality education with freedom to think." Mr. Euting was coordinator of program planning for the Educational Division of the Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday School Board.

February 23, 1971 was Pat Spangler's day as the school named a residence hall in his honor. Billy Graham attended as did Hargrove "Skipper" Bowles, later to run for governor, and as stated in *The Shelby Daily Star*, "a host of Cleveland County and other area personages who have made their own contributions and who stand individually as honored men and women, were in attendance." But, "Despite it all, it was Pat Spangler's day."

Spangler served on the College Board of Trustees as chairman and twice led capital fund drives. "No one will ever realize how much he and his family have done for the College," said trustee chairman Lloyd Bost. Both Pat Spangler and his brother, Bud Spangler, a former student at Gardner-Webb, were active supporters of the College. The Spangler brothers at the time owned and operated Spangler and Sons Concrete Company in Shelby, Spangler's Ready Mix Concrete in Kings Mountain, and the Shelby Sand and Stone, Inc. of Shelby.

During the year 1968, the area immediately in front of the Webb Hall, which served as an entrance to the campus, experienced a transformation. G.T. McSwain's store had been located at the intersection of Main Street and College Avenue almost directly in front of the area where the administration building was being built.

After McSwain's Store was moved to East College Avenue, the College acquired the store's old site. During 1968, much was done to enhance this highly-visible area. November 2, 1968 saw the dedication of a new \$85,000 entrance that incorporated a beautiful "boiling spring" (an artificial spring), and

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the Suttle-Wall Tower, which would stand in tribute to Joseph Linton (J.L.) Suttle and Dr. Zeno Wall. The tower was presented to the College by J.L. Suttle, Jr. and Lloyd Bost, both of Shelby.

James L. Beason of Boiling Springs presented the Beason Gate on behalf of his family, and Orvan V. Jarrell of Doswell, VA presented the Jarrell Gate on behalf of the Jarrell family. These gates were placed at the north and the south entrances to Quinn Circle.

On the academic front, the school was moving deliberately toward four-year status. Dr. Poston made four-year status an aim of his Decade of Advance 1961-1971.

To become an accredited four-year institution, the College would need to show the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the other accrediting agencies that Gardner-Webb was a quality educational institution seeking to carry out its stated purpose of "Developing quality Christian students, who think for themselves and who will dedicate themselves to a Christian way of life in a vocation of their choice." Well-trained teachers, a library adequate to support the educational program of a four-year college, and a campus with adequate facilities were criteria to be met. The administration, the trustees, and the faculty and staff worked diligently in the period 1961-1971 to meet all the standards. In order to meet the educational requirements for faculty, the administration hired teachers who already had earned doctorates and encouraged present faculty members without doctorates to return to school for further credentials. In 1967 there were fifty-eight full-time faculty members and twelve part-time faculty. Two of the teaching faculty and two in administration held doctorates. Fifty-one held Master's degrees.

In 1968 alone, eight new faculty members were hired who had earned doctorates. The standards for senior college accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools at that time required that at least sixty percent of the teaching faculty should hold professional preparation equivalent to three years of advanced study beyond the bachelor's degree and at least thirty percent should hold an earned doctor's degree.

The effort to encourage professors to return to school for advanced degrees was very successful. Scholarship grants for professors returning to school were based on several criteria and provisions:

- (1) *The applicant must be a full-time teacher or administrator at Gardner-Webb*
- (2) *The applicant must give full time to his studies toward the doctor's degree.*
- (3) *The applicant would receive a grant of up to 70% of his salary and would not lose his salary increment.*
- (4) *The applicant must agree to return to Gardner-Webb for a period of at least three years.*
- (5) *For each year the applicant teaches at Gardner-Webb after his return, he would forgive 20% of the grant.*

A survey of the faculty by the trustees' curriculum committee showed that there were thirty faculty members who were interested in graduate study toward a doctorate, five who had indicated that they would be available to take a leave of absence the following year for graduate work and that the remaining twenty-five would be ready at some time yet undetermined. The report noted that, "We anticipate that each year for the next ten years, we will have a minimum of three faculty members who could, with one year's leave of absence, complete the residence requirements for the doctorate."

At the September 11, 1967 meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Mae Stroup moved that a committee be appointed to draw up a resolution to be submitted to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina asking that Gardner-Webb be allowed to offer the third year of instruction to its students in 1969 and the fourth year in 1970. The motion passed unanimously.

At the May 27, 1968 meeting of the Trustees, Dr. Poston reported on the progress toward meeting standards. He said that the most difficult requirements would be faculty training and the library. "Progress," he reported, "is being made in both of these areas."

The March 1969 *Web* reported that the development of the library was a major key in turning the key to senior status accreditation at Gardner-Webb. The article reported that total volumes in the stacks had doubled from 23,000 two years previous to over 40,000 volumes in 1969. Dr. Stanley H. Benson, head librarian, had said, "The College must now decide on whether to build an addition to the present Dover Library or to construct a new library building." In addition to library collections already



First graduation of Senior College, 1971

mentioned, the library by 1969 housed the libraries of Jay Jenkins, son of Rev. J.L. Jenkins, and Rev. Garland Hendricks.

In the meantime, Dr. Poston received from Charles B. Vail, of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a letter giving the projected sequence of events leading to accreditation as a four-year school. Mr. Vail wrote, "We will record 1969 as the year that third year students begin work at Gardner-Webb. It will be noted that you expect to graduate the first baccalaureate students in 1971."

The letter also addressed the sequence of accreditation activities: Spring 1970, Advisory Committee visit; Fall 1970, Review and action by Committee on Admission to membership; Spring 1971, Evaluation Committee visit; Fall 1971, second review and action by the Committee on Admission; Annual Meeting 1971, accreditation as a Senior College.

Meanwhile, the trustees had approved a recommendation that Marts and Lundy, a fundraising organization out of New York, be employed to assist the school in a fundraising campaign. Dr. Poston

informed the trustees that "it is important that we be striving to meet the needs of the school now so that the committee from the Southern Association will know we are serious about our needs and that we plan to meet them." A goal of \$1,500,000 was set for the campaign.

While seeking four-year approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the College also sought consent for the change from the Baptist State Convention. In March 1968 a special joint committee to study Gardner-Webb recommended to the Council on Christian Higher Education that Gardner-Webb be allowed to move toward senior college status. That recommendation rose through the ranks of committees and on November 13, 1969 the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina approved the College's entry into the four-year program. The Convention, therefore, voted to change the name officially from Gardner-Webb Junior College to Gardner-Webb College, and to change the charter to make the school officially a four-year school.

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It was announced on October 23, 1969 that the charter of Gardner-Webb had been revised and officially filed with the Register of Deeds in Cleveland County, changing the name from Gardner-Webb Junior College to Gardner-Webb College.

By 1969 the curriculum of the four-year college was fast developing. Gardner-Webb admitted students for the junior class in 1969 and for the senior class in the fall of 1970.

In April 1969 Thomas J. McGraw, then Vice-President for Public Relations, Fundraising and Administrative Affairs, was appointed Vice-president of Academic Affairs. Whatever his title, Mr. McGraw was throughout much of the administration of Dr. Poston the president's closest confidant and advisor. These two men seemingly understood each other, and their personalities complemented each other. In addition to their professional relationships, they were good friends with each supporting the other.

The position of Vice-president for Academic Affairs came open in 1969 when Dr. Thurman Lewis, who had served in that position since 1967,

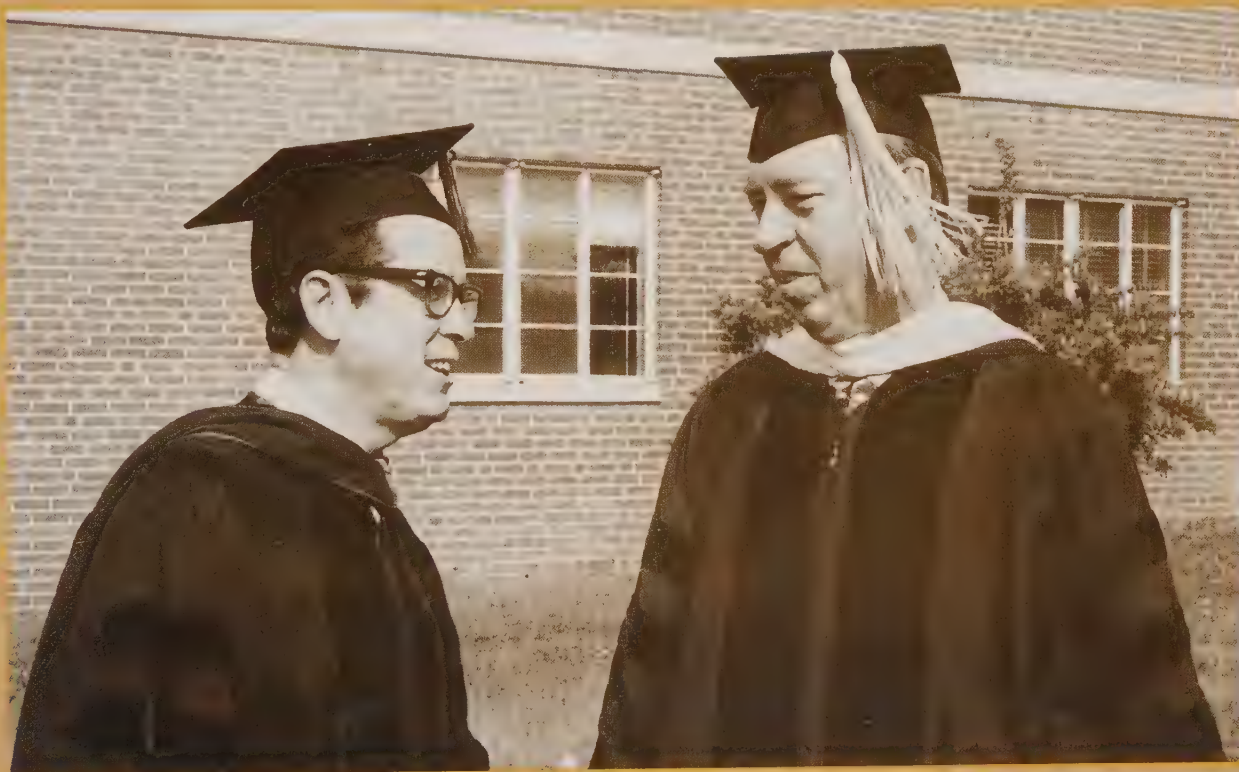
requested a return to the faculty and was appointed chairman of the new Ancient Languages Department.

Simultaneously with Mr. McGraw's appointment, Dr. R. E. Carothers was appointed Director of Teacher Training for the four-year program. This was one of the early appointments to a new position related to the anticipated four-year status. Dr. Carothers had been principal of Ashley High School in Gastonia for fourteen years.

Dr. Thurman Lewis, a member of the faculty since 1964, enjoyed his new work. Sadly, he developed cancer and died on January 5, 1976. He was a co-founder of the Christian Service Organization.

At Dr. Lewis' memorial service, Rev. T. Max Linnens, pastor of Boiling Springs Baptist Church, said of him, "His faith in the Lord sustained him in his life of teaching, preaching, and witnessing. His faith enabled him to live victoriously in the face of pain, suffering, and death."

Rev. Linnens added, "He had the ability to see the potential in his students and to dare them to see what he saw. This man was sensitive, with a finely-honed ethical sense and stance of integrity."



Lloyd Bost received first honorary doctorate



Pat and Eloise Spangler with the Reverend Billy Graham

The Web announced in its Spring 1978 issue that a church in Haiti had been named in memory of Dr. J. Thurman Lewis. One of Dr. Lewis' former students, Mike Remy, who was serving as a pastor near Port-au-Prince, had arranged for naming the Lewis Memorial Evangelical Baptist Church. Mike Remy was one of the first recipients of a Christian Service Organization scholarship.

In mid-April 1970, as the College was moving from two-year to four-year status, and as the first class that would graduate as a senior college, was finishing its third year, the school launched the \$1.5 million capital campaign fund drive. Climaxing a Decade of Advance that began in 1961, the campaign was designed to assure that the College continued to have accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

R. Patrick (Pat) Spangler, Shelby businessman and civic leader, was national chairman of the capital campaign fund. He had completed a three-year term as chairman of the college trustees the previous November. Mr. Spangler also served as national campaign director in 1965 when more than \$2,600,000 was raised for the school.

As much was being given, a rare and fine friend was taken away. Mrs. O. Max Gardner died January 6, 1969. Mrs. Gardner had served with distinction as first lady of North Carolina and had been a significant contributor and promoter of Gardner-Webb. At the time of her death, she was serving as a member of the Executive Committee and Property Committee of the Board of Trustees.

The Webb Hall, dedicated in 1961, was named in honor of Mrs. Gardner's family; the O. Max

Gardner Student Center for her husband. The trustees wrote, in a Resolution of Appreciation: "Mrs. Gardner manifested a genuine love for all people of all races, nationalities, and social levels."

According to the Web of September 1969, over 1300 students registered during Gardner-Webb's historic 1969-1970 school year. Of that number 241 were members of the school's first junior class.

The Web also reported, "Ninety-five professors and administrators, plus a 'large crop' of staff members were on hand for the important 1969-1970 school year." Most of the juniors were returning students, although some did come from other colleges or were returning to college after an absence of a few years.

In the curriculum leading to the bachelor's degree, the College had established eight divisions and sixteen departments. There remained the associate degree programs in the Department of Nursing and some few associate degrees in the area of secretarial science and data processing. The College was in the process of becoming a four-year liberal arts college while maintaining a limited number of professional and pre-professional training options.

In May 1971 all four-year credentials were in order; all agencies and administrations satisfied. As the final criterion, rules of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools stated that a school must graduate at least one class as a four-year school before it can be eligible for recognition as an accredited senior college.

On May 16, 1971, wearing the Alma Mater's classic black and red, 242 seniors marched in a "Pomp and Circumstance" processional into Gardner-Webb College's history as its first graduating class as a senior college. Leading the line of graduates were J.W. and Terry Abernethy.

The Bulldog Room in the Lutz-Yelton convocation Center is named for their family. This was a most fitting tribute to President Poston, Dean McGraw, the trustees, and faculty who had worked so selflessly toward this day.

At this commencement



John R. Dover, Sr.

The Junior College Becomes A Four-year School

Gardner-Webb conferred its first honorary Doctor of Humanities degree upon long-devoted booster and donor Lloyd C. Bost of Shelby, president of Bost Bakeries, Inc., and chairman of the college Board of Trustees.

At its annual meeting in December 1971 the Southern Association granted Gardner-Webb accreditation as a senior college, retroactive to May 1971. President Poston and Dean McGraw were in Miami when the announcement of accreditation was made. Gardner-Webb students were gathered together at 10:30 a.m. on December 11, 1971 in Bost Gymnasium as Bill Briggs, Director of Public Relations, made the announcement and played a recording of his telephone conversation with Dr. Poston and Mr. McGraw.

Dr. Poston told the press, "We knew that we had a top-rated junior college, and it was our hope and prayer that we would be able to gain our accreditation soon. We were overjoyed that accreditation came the first time we made application." Dr. Poston added, "I am grateful to God that our dream has been fulfilled: an accredited senior college with a Christian atmosphere."

The move to senior college was the second major status change in the history of the school; the first occurred in 1928 when the institution became a junior college, a change partially precipitated by the increasing number of public high schools and thus declining demand for privately-supported schools. Likewise, the shift to senior college status in 1971 was partially brought about by a rapidly-growing system of community colleges or technical schools across North Carolina. Gardner-Webb began receiving students who transferred to the College after completing two years in a community college.

In 1971 as the school was producing its first senior class, three well-known national figures appeared on campus. Billy Graham spoke at the College's dedication of the R. Patrick Spangler Hall. Dr. Graham, addressing a crowd of 3,000, asked the students to live like Christ and be totally dedicated to Christ. He then said, "I have admired Gardner-Webb tremendously. I have followed its progress and I have read its reports. I am thrilled that in this part of North Carolina there is arising a great educational institution that I believe can be a great credit to education in North Carolina, the spiritual life of North Carolina Baptists and all denominations. I want to pay tribute to the work of the Board of Trustees, the faculty, staff and the

student body for all that has gone into making this the great college that it is today."

Dr. Graham continued, "I have had the privilege to recommend several students to this school. I told them that if they wanted to get a good education, go to Gardner-Webb and study in the spiritual atmosphere such as you will find there." (*The Web*, 1971)

That same year singer Johnny Cash was given an honorary Doctorate of Humanities degree for his work in the fields of prison and drug reforms, and Governor Robert Scott spoke at the college "Victory Dinner" after the successful fundraising campaign.

Construction on campus continued. The second wing of the Webb Hall was dedicated at the Founder's Day luncheon on October 20, 1973. This addition doubled the building's size, at a cost of approximately \$250,000. This wing, designed to complement and balance the architecture of the original structure, provided space for all the College's administrative offices.

The Webb Hall was named in honor of Mrs. Fay Webb Gardner and in memory of her parents, Judge and Mrs. James L. Webb and her grandparents, the Rev. and Mrs. George M. Webb.

Gearing up for the demands of the expanding curriculum and student body, the trustees and administration decided to build a new library. The new John R. Dover Memorial Library was dedicated at homecoming in October 1974.

President E. Eugene Poston set the theme of the dedication luncheon when he reminded the group, "Many things make up a Christian college including Christian faculty and staff members, Christian friends, and many good books."

John R. Dover, III, Shelby attorney, made the formal presentation of the building on behalf of the Dover family. The *Shelby Daily Star* quoted Mr. Dover as saying of his grandfather, "He was a very disciplined man. He walked almost three miles each day to work; he read the Bible as part of the everyday learning discipline; he even wrote the Sunday School lessons that he taught."

The Rev. William A. Wallace, pastor of the Flint Grove Baptist Church in Gastonia and a member of the College's Board of Trustees, accepted the library on behalf of the College. Rev. Wallace cited the home, church and school as the centers of American educational process. He pointed out that almost all of the nation's early leaders were graduates of church-supported schools.

Earlier, on April 25, 1974, books and other materials were moved by students, faculty, and staff

from the old library to the new Dover Memorial Library. This was a gigantic undertaking: in approximately four hours, the books and other learning materials were moved, and the students were using the new library that night. The transfer took on a festive air with food served on the grounds to the helpers. Members of the Dover family symbolically shared in the move to the beautiful new structure. The library had a total seating capacity of 450 for study with additional 115 seats in non-study areas that included a classroom, seminar auditorium combination, and a conference room.

A *Shelby Daily Star* article on April 30, 1974 described the moving of library materials: "It took four thousand hands and feet on one thousand people four hours to move 72,000 books." The entire operation ran very smoothly that day. The two men who had the most to do with the moving program, Alton Malone, Library Director, and Thomas J. McGraw, Executive Vice-president and Dean, had nothing but praise for the movers; said Dean McGraw, "I know we could have hired someone to do the job or let our own crews do it, but we wanted this to be an instrument to draw our college family closer together."

Over the years, the Gardner-Webb library had been housed in several locations. In the high school era, the library was in the Huggins-Curtis Building. In the early 1940s, the library built with a gift from Shelby businessman Seaton Washburn, in memory of his wife and in honor of their two daughters, was erected on land donated to the College by the Boiling Springs Baptist Church.

The third library was in the present Craig Hall and was also known as the John R. Dover Memorial Library. This building was erected in 1952 and served as the library until the move to the new building at its present site.

The present John R. Dover Memorial Library was built on the site of the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Huggins, who played such significant roles in the school's earlier period.

The building that had previously housed the library soon became the Craig Hall and was formally dedicated on May 17, 1975. Completely remodeled, it housed the Art, Education, and Mathematics departments. The plaque on the front of the building reads:

This building was made possible by the family of Mr. Hubert M. Craig. Mr. Craig was a staunch believer in Christian higher education.

He served on the Board of Trustees of several Baptist colleges, including Gardner-Webb. As president of Gaston County Dyeing Machines, he used his influence and personal assets to further the cause of Christian education.

Now that ever-more students were coming and staying longer, many more would be needing financial aid. One of the most successful fundraising organizations at Gardner-Webb has been the Christian Service Organization, organized in 1971. In its constitution and by-laws, the organization's stated purpose was to provide scholarship aid for capable and deserving students preparing for full-time Christian vocational service. Since its birth, the school had given high priority to the training of students preparing to enter Christian vocations.

Dr. Thurman Lewis, chairman of the Department of Ancient Languages, and Rev. Buddy Freeman, Campus Minister at that time, were largely responsible for the idea and the founding of the organization. The concept was to create an organization that would give to students who planned to enter church-related professions the same kind of aid that athletic booster clubs, such as the Bulldog Club, did for athletes.

Mrs. Tyner Ivester was the first secretary-treasurer of the Christian Service Organization and remained in this position until her death in 1994. Other original officers were Rev. Ed Sessom, President, and Rev. Richard Plyer, Vice-president.

In December 1975 Dr. Lewis was honored in a special program at the organization's quarterly meeting. Pres. Eugene Poston referred to Dr. Lewis, a former dean of the College as an administrator, saying he was always "prepared, trustworthy, and friendly." He was also a valued scholar. When Dr. Lewis introduced Biblical or Ancient Language studies as a major, Gardner-Webb reportedly was the only college east of the Mississippi River offering this major at the undergraduate level.

The athletics program was not a big priority in the days of Boiling Springs High School, but with junior college status that began to change. In some of the darkest years financially, the school produced outstanding athletic teams. There were those two state junior college championship football teams, in 1930 and 1933. The 1930 team was undefeated and scored on only once; the 1933 team compiled an 8-0-1 record. Coach Rice trained several other outstanding football teams in the 1930s. Coach



National Golf Champions 1976 and 1977, Dr. Garland Allen, Coach

Marjorie Crisp led a celebrated women's basketball team in that era.

Several players from the 1930s have been inducted into Gardner-Webb's Athletic Hall of Fame. One of them, Zeno Wall of Gatlinburg, TN was a standout in that decade. He lettered in football, basketball, and baseball, was the starting quarterback on the 1930 football team that won the N.C. Junior College championship and was quarterback of the N.C. Junior College All-star team.

George Mauney starred and earned letters in football, basketball, and baseball between 1932 and 1934. He went on to star in football at Wake Forest University. In 1984, he was inducted into the North Carolina American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame after compiling a fifteen year coaching record of 159-110 in the American Legion baseball program.

John T. (Jack) Jolley was a three-sport letter winner in football, basketball, and baseball as a freshman at Boiling Springs Junior College, and three years prior to that while attending high school.

The "modern era" of athletics began after World War II. During the war most males of college age were in military service and intercollegiate competition

in the United States was limited, particularly at the junior college level. Women's intercollegiate competition was minimal at Gardner-Webb and other institutions in this period.

Wayne Bradburn was the football coach during the 1940s. He took one of his teams to the Golden Isle Bowl. A highly-successful coach who did much to pave the way for his successors was Norman Harris, who first came to Gardner-Webb in 1949 as an assistant football coach and head baseball coach. Harris held the position of head baseball coach for eighteen years. In 1952 when Wayne Bradburn resigned as head football coach, Coach Harris assumed that role as well. He remained as head football coach for nineteen years, and served as head basketball coach for eight years. He was also athletic director.

Between 1952 and 1969, Norman Harris led football teams to 106 wins against 67 losses and 13 ties. Under Coach Harris, Gardner-Webb teams won 10 Western N.C. junior college titles in football and two state football championships. In 1952 Harris' gridders won conference and state crowns and defeated Georgia Military College 14-0 in the Golden Isle Bowl at Brunswick, GA.

Ten of Norman Harris's baseball teams at Gardner-Webb won Western N.C. Junior College titles, and six were state champions. He coached American Legion baseball in Cherryville for several years with his first team in 1953 winning area, state, regional and sectional titles and finishing fourth in the American Legion Little World Series.

In a span of twenty-six years in which Norman Harris coached, his teams won a total of twenty-two Western Carolina junior college athletic titles and five state championships.

After leaving Gardner-Webb in 1970, Norman Harris remained active in coaching and teaching physical education until his retirement in 1989.

Coach Norman Harris was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991.

A *Shelby Daily Star* news story in May 1964 reported that Eddie Holbrook had been named Gardner-Webb's head basketball coach. Coach Holbrook was a Lenoir-Rhyne College graduate and basketball standout. He came to Gardner-Webb after coaching one year at Chase High School in Rutherford County. He promptly built the bulldogs into a junior college basketball powerhouse, and then a senior college powerhouse in the NAIA ranks. Each of Holbrook's teams had a winning season. In 1968-1969, his team posted a 30-3 record in the junior college ranks before losing in the national finals.

Coach Holbrook was appointed Athletic Director in 1970. At that time his record as a basketball coach was 135 wins and 33 losses. During 1970-1971 the Bulldogs began making themselves known in the NAIA circles by winning 20 and losing only 4. In 1971-1972 the Bulldogs posted a 31-5 record and finished fourth in the national finals in Kansas City, MO. In 1973-1974 the Bulldogs went to the national tourney again after finishing with a 25-3 record.

Coach Holbrook's record during his tenure, from 1964 to 1978, when he was named head basketball coach at Furman University, was 338 wins and 65 losses. His teams competed in the national finals on four occasions, twice as a junior college and twice as a senior college.

Jerry Bryson came to Gardner-Webb as baseball coach in 1966 and coached until 1980. During these years, he compiled an amazing 305-87 win-loss record and guided the Bulldogs to three conference championships. He was also named conference "Coach of the Year" for three consecutive years. Two of his teams advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament finals. During his

reign as coach, seven of his players earned All-American honors. Coach Bryson was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992.

While the school had come close to winning national championships in several sports, golf was the one sport in which Gardner-Webb won NAIA national championships. In 1976 the golf team, coached by Dr. Garland Allen, won the NAIA national finals in Burlington, NC, and in 1977 repeated by winning the national championship in Saginaw, MI. Dr. Allen, the school's first golf coach, mentored the golf team from 1962 until 1989 and built the program into a national power and guided a total of nine teams to the NAIA national tournaments. In addition to the two national championship teams, his teams finished second, third, fourth, sixth, eighth, and had two twelfth place finishes. Nine of his players earned All-American recognition. Dr. Allen taught full-time in the areas of history and religion while coaching the golf teams.

George Litton followed Norman Harris as head football coach at Gardner-Webb in 1970 and coached until 1975. During his tenure, the Gardner-Webb football team on December 27, 1973 played Stephen F. Austin College of Texas in the first Poultry Bowl game in Gainesville, GA. Coach Litton had turned the football program from a 2-9 record his first year to a 7-5 season in 1973, including the Poultry Bowl. After resigning as head football coach in 1975, Mr. Litton served as Director of Finance and Placement at Gardner-Webb until he became assistant principal at Crest High School in 1975. In 1983 he became principal of Crest High School.

Several athletes from the 1960s and 1970s have been inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletic Hall of Fame. Among these are Gary Robinson, baseball, who made All-American in 1975. Robinson had a batting average of .466 at Gardner-Webb in 1974. He is currently the head baseball coach at UNC-Charlotte. Robinson coached four players who have played in the major leagues.

Bobby Lail was a standout pitcher for the Bulldogs from 1968 until 1972. In 1969 he led the Bulldogs to the NJCAA national tournament in Grand Junction, CO. He was drafted by four major league baseball clubs: the Chicago White Sox, the Atlanta Braves, the Washington Senators, and the Baltimore Orioles.

Records show that during the 1960s and 1970s Gardner-Webb athletic teams often had winning seasons, especially in basketball, baseball, and golf. The basketball teams, along with supporters, often

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traveled to such places as Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, and other exotic areas.

Because of his enthusiastic support for school athletics during his leadership years, former president E. Eugene Poston was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991. The rugged work schedule Dr. Poston kept in his youth left little time or energy for team sports. Perhaps that only sharpened his interest and appreciation for sports.

During Poston's presidency, some well-known high school athletes, especially in basketball, came to Gardner-Webb and brought considerable recognition to the school and to themselves. Among these players were Artis Gilmore, George Adams, and John Drew, all of whom later played in the NBA.

Dr. Poston, at least on one occasion, issued a few challenges of his own. The President was quoted as saying, "Our goal is still to beat Wake Forest and Duke in basketball. I'm not kidding about that. But they are not going to play us. Our purpose at Gardner-

Webb is to glorify the name of God, Lord of our lives." Gardner-Webb, as a junior college, did play the UNC and Wake Forest freshmen teams.

Several individuals, including Zenon Hansen and Wayne DeHart, along with many Bulldog Club members - and other local supporters - thoroughly enjoyed this period of success in inter-collegiate athletics.

Zenon Hansen was president and Chairman of the Board of Mack Trucks, whose symbol was the bulldog. On February 15, 1972, according to a newspaper article, this "Chief Bulldog of Mack Trucks, Inc., the nation's No. 1 firm in diesel truck sales, came to the 'Bulldog Country' of Gardner-Webb College."

Several months prior to Mr. Hansen's visit Dr. Poston had read an article about Hansen and was impressed with his philosophy of life, including belief in the free enterprise system.

According to an article in the *Shelby Daily Star*, Dr. Poston wrote Zenon Hansen in Allentown, PA, home office of Mack Trucks, and included in that letter a



Radio Station WGWG, Allen Setzer, Director

copy of the Gardner-Webb campus code to which each prospective student and his parents must subscribe before the young person could be admitted to Gardner-Webb. In the same letter Dr. Poston extended to Mr. Hansen an invitation to visit the College. Mr. Hansen soon became a rather frequent visitor to the campus, especially to basketball games.

On one of these trips, according to the *Shelby Daily Star*, Zenon Hansen flew from Allentown to attend a meeting of the Bulldog Club on July 10, 1972. Mr. Hansen, in addressing the club, said, "I like Gardner-Webb and the Bulldogs because of their high ideals and aims. You have my support all the way." Hansen mentioned that Vince Lombardi was his idol, as he was also Eddie Holbrook's, and presented Coach Holbrook, who was then athletic director and basketball coach, with a giant statue of Lombardi for his office.

Another supporter of Gardner-Webb athletics, especially basketball, during the Poston administration, was Wayne DeHart. Mr. DeHart was owner and operator of DeHart Trucking Company in Newton, NC. He became rather regular in his attendance at basketball games and was a financial supporter of the program. The resolution of appreciation passed by the Board of Trustees after Mr. DeHart's death on March 3, 1973 said, in part, "George Wayne DeHart loved God, his church, young people and the game of basketball." Editor John Fowler, writing in the school yearbook, the *Anchor*, in 1973 said, "Mr. DeHart loved Gardner-Webb more than any man I know. He loved the Bulldogs and backed them on almost every game they played." Mr. DeHart also served on the Board of Trustees.

For many alumni, friends, and supporters, these were wonderful years in Gardner-Webb athletics. Gardner-Webb, as other schools, had the problem of proper relationship between athletics and academics. At Gardner-Webb, as was true in many other schools, young men were recruited and brought to the school because of their athletic abilities. Some of these young men would not have attended college except for their athletic skills. In the Poston era women were not being actively recruited in athletics either at Gardner-Webb or most other institutions.

Soon after the senior college became accredited, Dr. Poston became more involved in national politics. The president, in chapel talks and other forums, had at times mentioned national politics, especially the presidency of Richard Nixon. In 1972 President Poston was chosen as a Democratic

National Committeeman from North Carolina and attended the Democratic National Convention in Miami Beach. He was also tapped to give the main address at the Democratic Vance-Aycock dinner in Asheville, NC, on September 30, 1972.

Dr. Poston had by this time developed higher ambitions for the school. the *Shelby Daily Star* of August 25, 1972 reported Dr. Poston as saying that plans were underway for the school to offer master's degrees by 1980. However, he made it clear that the plans were only in the discussion stage. "I will not say that we will have a master's program by 1980," he said. "I hope we will qualify for one by then."

Earlier, on August 17-18, 1970 a faculty workshop requested each academic department to submit plans for future implementation of master's degrees.

On May 24, 1973 a letter was submitted to the Council on Christian Higher Education alerting the council to the probability of a formal proposal for a master's degree in elementary education. Other studies and reports were made during the period including a study by the Graduate Program Self-Study Committee chaired by Dr. Larry Sale, professor of Education. On August 10, 1974, the Self-Study Committee filed a report of conclusions and recommendations regarding proposed graduate study at Gardner-Webb College.

Meanwhile, unthreatened by the school's senior status and higher aspirations, its two-year Associate in Arts programs continued to flourish. In fall 1972 there were 105 full-time students enrolled in the Gardner-Webb nursing program, up from about sixty-five in previous years. While the majority of the nursing students were from Cleveland and Rutherford counties in North Carolina and Cherokee County in South Carolina, students were enrolled in the program from as far north as New York and from as far south as Florida. According to a *Shelby Daily Star* news story of November 23, 1972, the Gardner-Webb nursing program had the distinction of being one of only three fully accredited programs of this type in the state out of twenty-one Associate in Arts programs.

After its first accreditation as a senior college by the Southern Association in December 1971, the school's status was reviewed and reaffirmed in 1975. The later appraisal was done because the regulations of the Southern Association required that schools receiving initial accreditation must undergo a complete self-study four years later. Dean McGraw termed the reaffirmation "a reward for all the dedicated efforts by the faculty and staff."

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Gardner-Webb established another means of reaching out to the public when in 1974 the school started its own FM radio station. For several years the school had produced radio programs which were played on local stations. In May 1974 at a special dinner on campus, the radio station was dedicated to the memory of the late Lee P. Frans of Hickory, whose family made the station possible through their financial gifts. Mrs. Frans, a member of the college's Board of Trustees, and other members of the family were present for the dedication service (WEB, May 1974). The station had been on the air since January 22, 1974.

Said Ellis Greenway, the first manager of the station, "We want to present Gardner-Webb to the people in this wide area." President Poston commented, "We think of this new radio station as a contribution by the College to the moral, social, cultural, and financial standards of the whole area."

Sometimes the big news of the day was on the campus. On February 27, 1976, Dr Poston told a joint meeting of the Board of Trustees, Board of Advisors, Women's Auxiliary, staff members, and some students that he planned to seek political office. At a press conference a few days later, Dr. Poston officially announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination as 10th district congressman. In his words, "I have completed the work that God called me here to do." Dr. Poston, however, lost the election.

With the construction between 1943 and 1976 (the Elliott and Poston years), the campus building program was well advanced. The buildings constructed and bought during these thirty-two years established a central core for the campus which, while significant renovations and construction have since occurred, remains in place.

As the College came of age in the 1970s, the nation was nearing its 200th birthday. In 1976, the year of Dr. Poston's resignation and the selection of a new president, Gardner-Webb participated in the country's Bicentennial celebration. In 1975 the school presented to the Bicentennial National Committee a proposal on how Gardner-Webb planned to celebrate the event, and the College was named a Bicentennial campus by the American Revolution Bicentennial Committee.

During the summer of 1975, a twelve member steering committee of students and faculty, headed by Professor Lansford Jolley, developed a far-reaching schedule of activities.

The various committees were arranged under one of the three general themes developed to emphasize

the growth of the nation: (1) the past; (2) Festival U.S.A., highlighting the country's pageantry and spirit of hospitality; and (3) Horizon '76, looking to the future.

Activities included store-front displays of items related to local history; a chapel program emphasizing the role of religion and education in Colonial America, and a series of town meetings sponsored by Gardner-Webb College and the North Carolina Humanities Committee, for which the school received a grant. These well-attended town meetings were held in various locations in Cleveland County between January 29 and April 29, 1976. They dealt with topics under the general theme of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, and created considerable interest and discussion.

A long list of faculty members and students participated in the Bicentennial activities. These included Dr. Anthony Eastman as project director for the Cleveland County town meetings; Dr. Betty Cox who provided ideas, issues and enthusiasm; Hank Harrison, a student, who was executive secretary for the Cleveland County town meetings, and Cindy McGraw, a student and daughter of Tom McGraw, who served as a student representative for the Bicentennial program.

As Dr. Poston was stepping down as president, he announced that the trustees had selected Thomas J. McGraw, Vice-president for Academic Affairs, as acting president. Shortly thereafter, Mr. McGraw announced that the Board of Trustees would meet to begin a search for a new president.

Dr. Poston's resignation was not unexpected. He had previously talked of running for political office. Also, in the months before his announcement, he had experienced health problems and had been away from campus while recuperating. Mr. McGraw had served as president while Dr. Poston was away. Throughout his career, even from childhood, Dr. Poston had been an extremely hard worker; this was his pattern as a student in high school, college, and seminary. As a pastor, professor, and college president he had continued at a frantic pace. By the latter part of Dr. Poston's presidency, he appeared to be emotionally and physically exhausted.

For all it had cost him, his labor had accomplished wonderful things for Gardner-Webb. On August 27, 1976 an appropriate ceremony was held at the College in appreciation of Dr. Poston's outstanding service as president. Presiding at the event was J. L. Nichols, Jr., chairman of the Board of Trustees. Other

remarks were made by Mrs. Mae Stroup, vice-chairperson of the trustees. Charles W. Wiseman, chairman of the Board of Advisors, observed that Dr. Poston played a major role in creating the Christian environment at the College and placed the school in the position to be acclaimed as a four-year college "second to none." Others appearing on the program were Rev. Cecil Seagle, chairman of the Ministerial Board of Associates; Mrs. Margaret Troutman, chairperson of the Wives Auxiliary; and Dr. Robert Mullinax, executive secretary of the council on Christian higher education. Also speaking was Bill Baucom, president of the Student Government Association, and Robert Abrams, representing the administration, faculty and staff. A special presentation, including a plaque commemorating his fifteen years of service and pictorial scrapbook of his years as president, was made to Dr. Poston and following a response by Dr. Poston. Thomas J. McGraw, Vice-president, made closing remarks. Rev. Clyde Bearden closed the program with prayer.

As the Elliott era (1943-1961) had been an unprecedented time of growth, so was the Poston era (1961-1976) a time of tremendous expansion and maturing. The school had basically met the goals of the Decade of Advance 1961-1971, including accreditation as a senior college. The student body had more than doubled and the faculty nearly tripled.

The major capital improvements added included Spangler, Myers, Mauney, and Lutz Yelton dormitories for men and Nanney dormitory for women; the Charles I. Dover Campus Center; the Spangler Stadium; Hamrick Fieldhouse; Nanney Baseball Field; John R. Dover, Sr. Memorial Library; John R. Dover, Jr. Chapel; and Lindsay Classroom Building. The Church Annex and Craig Classroom buildings were renovated, and the Webb Hall was doubled in size.

The Board of Advisors and the Ministerial Board of Associates were organized in the Poston era and had functioned well. Dr. Poston, the faculty and staff were justifiably pleased with the many accomplishments during this period. Responsible also were those many individuals, families, friends, businesses, churches, and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, who came through with tremendous financial and moral support each time help was needed.

Dr. Poston, while president of Gardner-Webb, did not limit his activities to serving as president. He was a Mason, a member of the Boiling Springs Rotary

Club, and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Boiling Springs Lifesaving and Rescue Squad, Inc.

Dr. and Mrs. Poston enjoyed leading groups of students and College supporters on tours of the Holy Land, a practice revived by current President Chris White. The Poston family was very active in College activities. Dr. Poston and his wife Dot were especially fond of the football and men's basketball teams, often traveling with the basketball team and Bulldog Club supporters on exotic trips abroad. Two of their children, Steven and Gloria, attended the College and were active in leadership roles. When they graduated they received the Huggins and Curtis awards respectively for their outstanding leadership. A daughter, Beth worked in the Admissions and Financial Aid office at Gardner-Webb for four years. While he and other leaders had on several occasions organized successful fundraising campaigns, a source of revenue that Dr. Poston never sought was federal and state aid. The president felt that with public money would come government control and/or regulations. The president consistently refused to seek direct government funding for any purpose. With this emphasis upon the free enterprise system, Dr. Poston felt that money should come from businesses and sources other than the state or federal government. However, it was often noted by school leaders that while the College did not seek government funding, the students should receive any available public funds for which they were eligible.

As Mr. McGraw assumed the acting presidency of the College, he pledged "to do all that I can in sustaining the high traditions of Gardner-Webb.... We are walking on holy ground," he said; "Gardner-Webb was dedicated to God and His work, and the work must go on."

Dr. Poston was an intelligent, energetic, enthusiastic president who was totally dedicated to Gardner-Webb and its mission as a Christian college. His friend and temporary successor Mr. McGraw likewise was totally committed to the growth and development of Gardner-Webb as a Christian college. Mr. McGraw was intelligent and energetic but appeared more "laid back" in his relationship with people. He usually was very practical in dealing with faculty members and students. He seemed to have the respect of people with whom he worked. On May 19, 1976 Campbell College awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws to Tom McGraw. The honor, said Norman Wiggins, president of Campbell, was in consideration of Mr. McGraw's major contribution

The Junior College Becomes A Four-year School

to the development of Gardner-Webb as a senior institution.

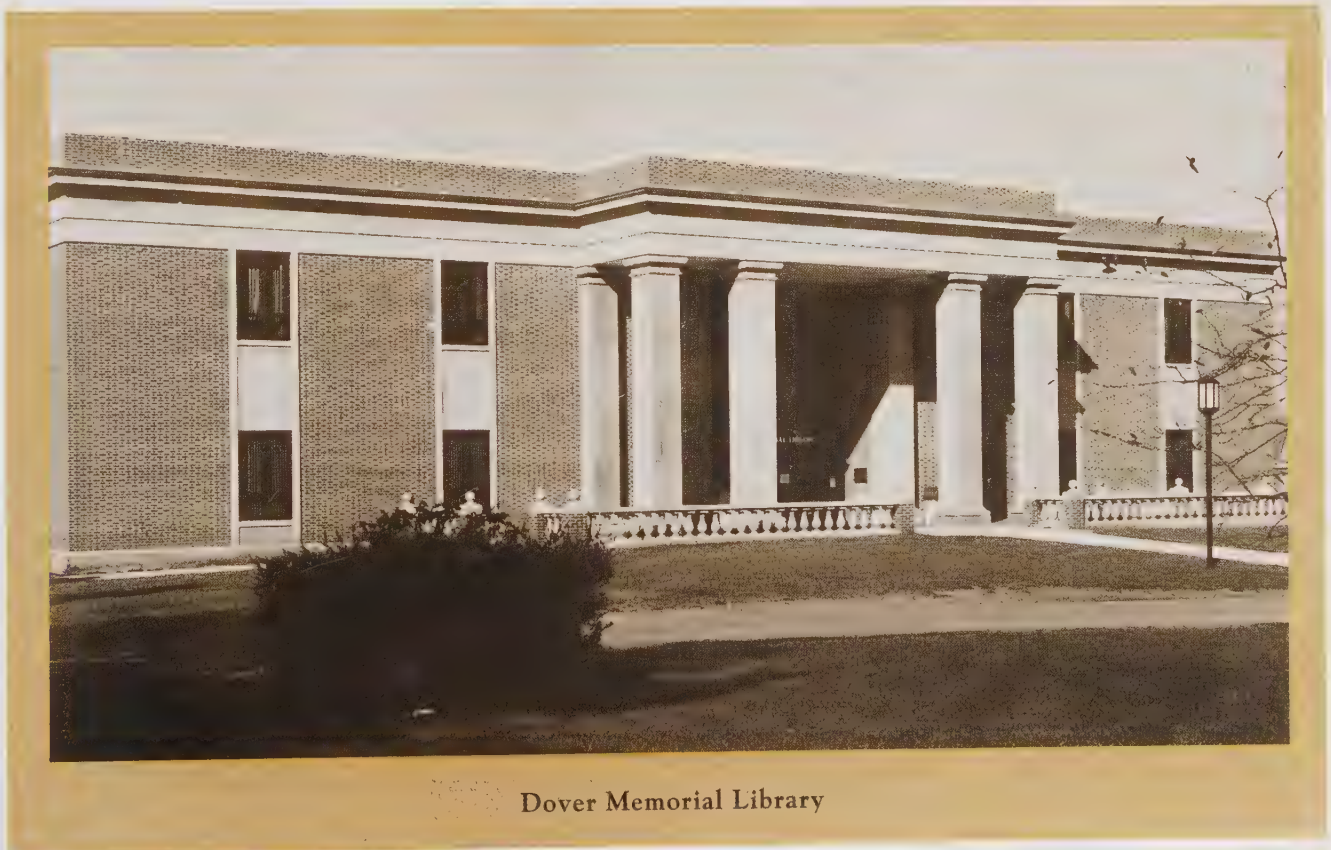
Tom McGraw would soon step aside as Dr. Craven E. Williams assumed the presidency of Gardner-Webb College. During the first year of the Williams presidency, Dean McGraw remained as the top academic official of the College. On July 1, 1977 he announced that he would be resigning his position as Executive Vice-president and Dean of the college that year at the end of summer school. He had served the school for fifteen years.

President Williams described Dean McGraw's work at Gardner-Webb as "typical of the noble and sacrificial service which has consistently characterized this institution."

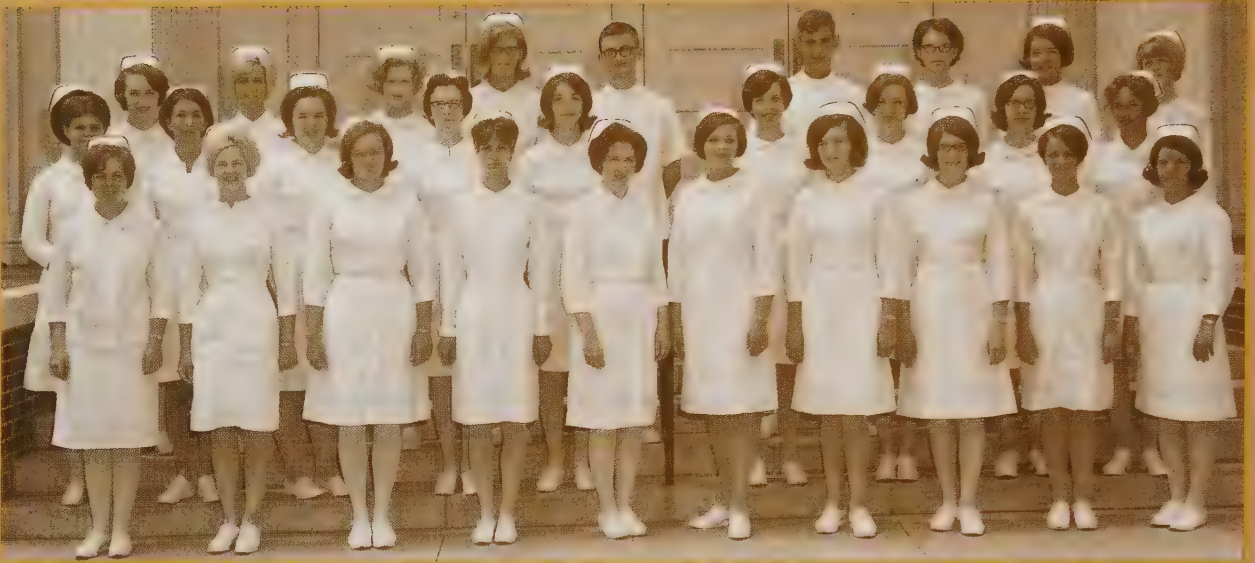
In 1978 Mr. McGraw was appointed Chief Deputy Clerk of Federal Courts in Western North Carolina and later was named Clerk of Federal Courts in Western North Carolina.



Students and Staff moved the books in the
the New Dover Library



Dover Memorial Library

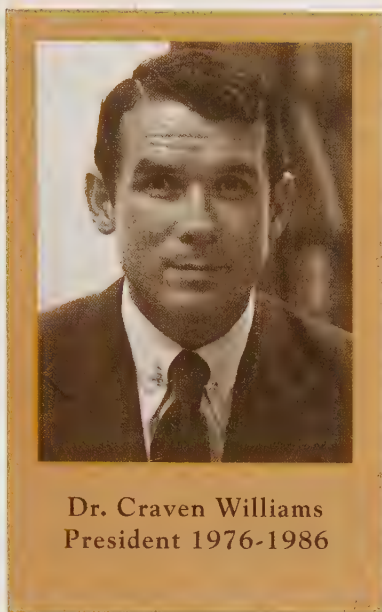


Graduates in nursing program 1967 - 1968



Inauguration of President Eugene Poston
Mrs. Rush Stroup, Rev. J.L. Jenkins, Mrs. O Max Gardner, and Dr. Zeno Wall

A New President And New Programs



On July 31, 1976 the news media announced that Dr. Craven Williams had been named the ninth president of Gardner-Webb College. He had been recommended to the Board of Trustees by a search committee composed of Pat Spangler, chairman; Forest Roberts; the Rev. Olin Heffner; Mrs. Mae Stroup, vice-chairman of the Trustee Board, and Dr. Robert Lamb, Vice-chairman of the faculty.

For about a year before his new appointment Dr. Williams served as vice-president of Davidson College. He had come to Davidson from Mary Baldwin College, where he was vice-president. Earlier, he had been named assistant director of development and alumni affairs at Wake Forest while still a graduate student.

Earlier, he earned his B.A. at Wake Forest in 1962 and then went to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned a Master of Divinity degree. While in seminary he pastored a church in Raleigh, NC. He then earned his D.Min. degree at Union Theological Seminary in 1973.

While attending Wake Forest, Dr. Williams played varsity football and was named to the Atlantic Coast Conference Academic Honor Roll. A winner of many academic honors, and later a college administrator, Williams never lost sight of his call as a minister. He regularly spoke in Baptist Churches. He saw his work at Gardner-Webb as an extension of his call to the ministry.

Dr. Williams was born January 27, 1940 at Monroe, NC. To a reporter's remark about the youth (36) of this new college president, Williams responded in typical good humor that he was as old as it was possible for him to be at that time.

In his acceptance of the presidency, Dr. Williams described himself as a "traditionalist" and set academic integrity as his priority for the school. "Gardner-Webb has a responsibility to do the best job it can academically," he told an interviewer.

"Religion and academics are not mutually exclusive. The Christian ideal is to be the best at whatever one does. Being a Christian school, Gardner-Webb must be the best school it can possibly be."

Dr. Williams related during his early years at the school two happenings in the spring of 1976 which affected his decision to come to Gardner-Webb.

He had met with the search committee but had not been on the Gardner-Webb campus. To get a "feel" for campus life, Williams came to graduation, watched the line of march and ceremony without revealing to anyone who he was or what he was about. In another incident, he and his family were at Lake Norman when he by chance met a Gardner-Webb student. Unaware of Williams' particular interest, the young man related a string of such up-beat stories about his school life and experiences that Williams was moved to accept the job.

Dr. Williams came to Gardner-Webb at a time when American colleges and universities were seeking out presidents who were top performers at raising money and wooing public support. Academic concerns were being left to the deans and faculty.

Of necessity, Dr. Elliott and Dr. Poston had worn their booster's hats as part of myriad duties. However, by 1976 Gardner-Webb had reached the point in its development that the president could no longer be first and foremost a teacher. While Dr. Williams shared a ministerial background with his predecessors, none of the previous presidents had come to Gardner-Webb with the administrative experience he had gained in prestigious institutions. He had also taught religion, philosophy, Biblical studies, and psychology dealing with leadership behavior. And along with other gifts he brought to the College, in the area of fundraising Craven Williams would prove to be no slouch.

Dr. Williams "hit the ground running" at Gardner-Webb. He was often known to be the first person on

campus in the morning and followed a heavy schedule throughout most days. Early in his presidency, he often arrived at his office at 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. One faculty member at the time commented that Dr. Williams worked long and hard but also seemed to work smart.

Williams began on August 1, 1976 a thorough assessment of over-all institutional goals and programs, including an analysis of the school's readiness for master's level work.

On May 24, 1979 a proposal for a Master of Arts in Education degree program was presented to Dr. Robert Knott, Academic Vice-President and Dean of the College, by Dr. Larry Sale, Director of Continuing Education and Summer School. In August the Gardner-Webb faculty voted unanimously to request the trustees to approve a Master of Arts degree in Education with concentrations in early childhood, middle school, and physical education. The program was proposed to begin in the summer of 1980.

On August 31, 1979 the trustees approved the Master's program to begin in the summer of 1980. On October 8, a committee from the Council on Christian Higher Education of the Baptist State Convention visited the school to consider its readiness to offer such a program. On November 14, 1979 the Baptist State Convention unanimously approved the council's recommendation; the graduate program was on.

On July 28-29, 1980, the advisory committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools conducted a visit to Gardner-Webb and on April 9-10, 1981, an evaluation committee from the State Department of Public Instruction came to the campus. Following this visit, degree programs in reading, physical education, health education, and middle school were approved. Over the next three years the early childhood education program and a program in school administration received approval.

In the meantime, on May 15, 1982, the first class of master's candidates graduated.

The graduate programs were administered by the Director of Graduate Studies and a graduate council that was responsible to the graduate faculty. Dr. Barbara Burkett served as the first director of the Graduate Program. On August 21, 1981 President Williams announced that Dr. Burkett had resigned effective at the end of the school year (May 15, 1982). Dean Gilmer Blackburn was director of the graduate program for ten years from 1982-1991. On

August 23, 1976 in his first formal presentation to the faculty, President Williams shared some of his thinking about the type of school Gardner-Webb should be:

We must ask if we are performing at the highest possible level of academic integrity. Mediocrity cannot be considered acceptable in any area of our program. I want a Christian spirit that does not depend on piety and proclamation of self-righteousness but rather sees servanthood, earnest devotion, and a living faith as a means of portraying 'created in the image of God'. Gardner-Webb should be unashamedly Christian in its approach to education.

Gardner-Webb opened for the fall semester on August 26, 1976 with a formal convocation. This was the first year the school had officially opened with a ceremony designed to give an air of academic splendor. The convocation gave emphasis to the academic purpose of the school. At the same time it gave the school an opportunity to recognize three distinguished men by conferring upon them honorary doctorates. Receiving Doctor of Divinity degrees were Ernest C. Upchurch and B.E. Morris. John E. Martin, Jr. received a Doctorate in Science.

Leaders in any field often display singular characteristics by which they become identified. Thrift soon became the trait tagged to Dr. Williams. Weeks after his arrival, he announced that he would forego an elaborate inauguration. *The Charlotte Observer* of October 6, 1976 ventured that the new president of Gardner-Webb College thought there were better ways to spend \$15,000 than on the pomp and circumstance of his inauguration. Dr. Williams was quoted as saying, "In today's economy and with the situation independent colleges face, we have to look very, very carefully at how we spend every dollar. I could not in my own mind justify spending money for this when I knew of several other things the college needed or wanted badly."

The Gardner Foundation had given \$20,000 to pay expenses of the inauguration. The money instead was used for student and faculty development and for the establishing of the Presidential Scholars program.

Pragmatism and a sense of propriety apart from piety dominated Williams' philosophy, as in his remarks to the trustees three years later:

The primary reason for the existence of any college is the educational program it offers its students. For that reason, the primary test of the quality of Gardner-Webb College is not how entertaining students find attendance to be, nor how many athletic trophies student athletes bring home, nor how many public appearances our performing groups make, but how well the graduates are prepared for 'living as well as making a living'.

In the spring before Dr. Williams was appointed, Mathematics and Sciences Department chairman Hubert Dixon died suddenly. On Good Friday, April 16, 1976, Dixon, a pillar of the faculty since 1935, taught his classes as usual and attended an afternoon meeting. He then visited the office of a Boiling Springs physician and while there suffered a massive heart attack and died.

On May 14, 1977 a new gate at the west entrance to the campus was dedicated to Hubert C. Dixon. Dr. Williams commented, "The College cannot express adequately our gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated service Mr. Dixon gave to Gardner-Webb. Throughout his career, he was one of the College's greatest supporters. His life as an educator and individual exemplified the ideals he lived for."

Dixon's death followed that of fellow Professor J. Thurman Lewis. On January 13, 1977 it was announced that Gardner-Webb had received a bequest from the estate of Dr. Lewis, who chaired the Department of Ancient or Biblical Languages. His gift was to be used to initiate a Chair of Biblical Languages at the only Baptist college in the nation offering, at that time, an undergraduate major in Biblical Languages and Literature, and the only church-related college in the South offering an undergraduate major in both Hebrew and Koine (New Testament) Greek.

One year after Dr. Williams became president, in July 1977 Gardner-Webb announced a \$10.5 million development program to be known as Bold Dimensions in Higher Education. Dr. Williams, in a *Shelby Daily Star* news article of July 14, 1977 said, "The successful completion of this program will result in exciting new and bold dimensions in church-related higher education." Pat Spangler, chairman of the Board of Trustees, added, "The \$10.5 million program will seek new capital for endowment, new construction, renovations, and annual operations."

The objectives of the program:

1. \$4 million for endowment of academic programs supporting faculty salaries, faculty study and research program development and library book purchases.
2. \$2 million for endowment for students, including scholarships, loan funds, and other forms of financial aid.
3. \$3.5 million for improvements in the physical plant, including a much-needed special events convocation center and building renovations.
4. \$1 million for annual operations, partially supporting an operating budget in excess of \$4.6 million.

Dr. Williams explained that the Bold Dimensions program would parallel the Bold Missions of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is quickly observable that in contrast to Dr. Poston's Decade of Advance, Bold Dimensions gave more emphasis to endowment, annual operating expense and maintenance of existing buildings. By the end of the Poston administration, the basic campus construction program was in place. The only major building need referred to in Bold Dimensions was for a special events convocation center.

President Williams called the new drive "more people and program-oriented rather than plant oriented." As he said in the *Shelby Daily Star* of July 20, 1977, "The available student population for colleges and universities is expected to decrease in the next decade, and since Gardner-Webb has adequate buildings for the present student population, it makes no sense to build a lot of buildings. Our growth must be qualitative rather than physical."

As others had done, Williams began bringing in administrators whom he already knew and trusted. On July 29, 1977 Dr. Robert E. Knott, then Dean of Instruction at Arkansas College in Batesville, AR was announced as the new Vice-president for Academic Affairs and Dean of Instruction at Gardner-Webb. Before coming to Arkansas College, Dr. Knott was Associate Dean for General Studies and Educational Development Officer at Mars Hill College where he was also Assistant Professor of Philosophy.

Dr. Knott was born in Winston-Salem, NC and earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Wake Forest University. He held a B.D. degree from Southeastern

Baptist Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Knott had served as minister at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem, as assistant chaplain at Wake Forest, and as Director of the North Carolina Governor's School. It was during his years at Wake Forest that Dr. Knott knew Craven Williams as a classmate and a football teammate.

In a *Shelby Daily Star* article of July 29, 1977 Dr. Williams said, "Dr. Knott is one of the most respected and creative academic leaders. He is a frequent speaker and workshop leader in the area of curriculum design and faculty development. His expertise is widely sought around the country by colleges and universities seeking to design undergraduate curricula. He has served as a consultant to such institutions as the University of Miami, UCLA, Bowling Green State University, and the University of Rhode Island."

Dr. Williams then hired Barry Hartis as Coordinator of Business Affairs and Business Manager. Mr. Hartis, a native of Kannapolis, received his B.S. degree in accounting from UNC-Charlotte. He was a certified accountant for the firm of Ernst and Ernst in Charlotte.

On November 19, 1976 some four months after becoming president, Dr. Williams in addressing a joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and Board of Advisors emphasized three new programs.

(1) *The newly implemented mentor program:*

Faculty members who were chosen by students to be mentors were assigned a number of freshman students. The program was designed to provide a system that would encourage a student to prepare for his or her whole life according to individual interests, needs and goals rather than just accumulating credits and degrees for a finite amount of learning. Such a program, Dr. Williams explained, was designed to meet the needs of the whole person. It included the intellectual realm and encompassed other equally important areas such as vocational, aesthetic, spiritual, social, and physical needs. Each mentor group also had two advanced students, a "big brother" and a "big sister" assigned to work with it.

(2) *A development program designed to determine those students with deficiencies in reading, English, and math: After these students with*

deficiencies had been identified by testing, a specialized laboratory would provide learning processes designed to correct deficiencies and/or the students were required to take remedial courses.

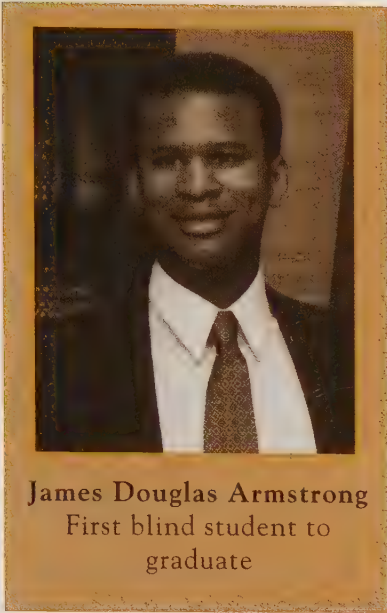
(3) *The programs for the deaf and blind:*

*Beginning in the fall of 1977, Gardner-Webb, under the guidance of the Baptist State Convention, provided the opportunity for hearing-impaired students to pursue college education. An August 12, 1977 *Shelby Daily Star* news article reported that the only liberal arts college for the deaf in the country at that time was Gallaudet in Washington, DC. The Gardner-Webb program for the deaf was initiated in conjunction with the N. C. Baptist State Convention. Program coordinator was Rev. Jerry Potter, Director of Deaf Ministries for the Convention. Dr. Potter, at that time, had twenty-six years of experience as Director of Deaf Missions with the Baptist State Convention.*

By 1979 the program for the deaf and hearing impaired had enrolled eight students, and at least ten additional students were expected the next year. Grants had been secured in support of the program and specific equipment to meet the needs of deaf students had been obtained. This equipment included a teletype communication system, a speech amplification system for the classroom, and the wiring of the students' rooms for communications. Interpreters, tutors, note-takers, and advising services were also organized for the students. At spring commencement in 1982, three deaf students were graduated from Gardner-Webb.

In spring 1984 Dr. Williams announced that the College had received from the Kate B. Reynolds Health Care Trust of Winston-Salem a grant of \$59,490 to initiate an interpreter training program. This program would enable a hearing student to be trained as a professional interpreter for the hearing impaired. A student could work toward an Associate in Arts degree in this area or could study toward this degree while working toward a bachelor's degree in another area of his or her choice.

After Dr. Williams learned that there were also 2,500 to 3,000 blind people within the 60-mile listening area of WGWG, the college's FM stereo radio station, the school soon established a program which



would enable the blind to enter Gardner-Webb.

When James Douglas Armstrong of McGehee, AR the first blind student, graduated *cum laude* in the spring of 1988, he received a Bachelor of Science degree with majors in both mathematics and computer science. Doug Armstrong won

two academic awards at Awards Day: the political science and the computer science awards.

At graduation he received the prestigious Huggins-Curtis citizenship award in recognition of his scholarship and participation in college activities. Doug Armstrong later graduated from the law school at Wake Forest University and is now practicing law in Winston-Salem.

The B.E. Morris Academy was established in 1977 when the Rev. B.E. Morris, his family, and friends contributed generously (over \$100,000) to endow the B.E. Morris Academy for Christian Studies. The Academy sponsors special learning opportunities both on and off campus to assist church and denominational leaders in their ministries.

Rev. Morris was a visiting scholar at Gardner-Webb from September 1973 until May 1977. Awarded an honorary D.D. degree from Gardner-Webb in 1976, Rev. Morris had served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Asheboro, pastor of the Western Avenue Baptist Church in Statesville, pastor of Greystone Baptist Church in Durham and dean and New Testament interpreter at the Fruitland Baptist Institute near Hendersonville.

The first B.E. Morris director was Rev. Nance Starnes of Asheville. Rev. Starnes was pastor of West Asheville Baptist Church for thirty-five years. He had served as a member of the Board of Trustees at Wake Forest University and Mars Hill College. He served two terms as president of the N.C. Baptist State Convention and two terms on the Executive Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1982 Dr. Garland Hendricks rejoined the college as director of the B. E. Morris Academy. From 1950-1953, Garland Hendricks was a professor of church-community development at Gardner-Webb. He left in 1953 to become professor of church-community development and director of field work at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Williams liked to say that Gardner-Webb had loaned Hendricks to the Seminary for 30 years.

As the tides of graduating high school seniors ebbed, a wave of adults began to seek a college education. In fall 1978 as part of the newly established program of special education, Gardner-Webb began a program entitled Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners (GOAL). Designed to provide opportunities for adults to earn a bachelor's degree, it was primarily designed for those students who had previously completed a two-year degree program. Many were already serving as policemen, social workers, teachers, and in other professions.

The Winter 1977 edition of *The Web* announced that Dr. Larry Sale, Professor of Education and Chairman of the Department of Education, had been appointed to the newly created post, Director of Continuing Education, which included the GOAL program and summer school. Dr. Sale's title was later changed to Assistant Academic Vice-president for Special Studies. Prof. Keith Griggs became Assistant Dean of Special Studies in 1979, and held the position until 1984 when he took a sabbatical to pursue a doctorate.

The program was originally in cooperation with Cleveland Community Technical Institute (now Cleveland Community College), Gaston College, and Isothermal College, with most students having earned a two-year degree from one of these schools. The schedule permitted students to continue their employment during the day and attend evening classes near home. Programs were originally offered in criminal justice, business administration, early childhood education, and intermediate education.

Students soon began graduating from the GOAL program in large numbers. Thomas A. Johnson, of the Shelby Police Department, was the first graduating Criminal Justice major in August 1979. Johnson and many other students in other programs went on to earn advanced degrees elsewhere. Typically fifty to seventy-five students completed the program each fall, 100 to 125 completed the program each spring and approximately 150 each summer. At least fifteen criminal justice majors who graduated from the GOAL

program are now serving as police chiefs in various cities and towns. One of them, Joe Puett, served as president of the N.C. Police Chiefs Association.

While school officials stressed the GOAL program as a service and not as a way of keeping the College solvent, the additional income to Gardner-Webb was a boon to the school.

An interesting and perhaps unique program came of a March 30, 1979 gift of \$100,000 from the Broyhill Foundation in Lenoir, for the establishment of the Broyhill Academy for the Study of Independent Concepts (BASIC).

Dr. Williams told how the idea of such a program (BASIC) partly came to him one day as he was traveling. He said that he stopped at two stores while on a trip. At one store the clerk just pointed to where things were and stayed in his chair. Without buying anything the president moved on to a second store where the person in charge was very gracious and sought to help every way that he could. Williams said that he perceived the need to teach people how to relate to each other in order to be successful. Later the president presented the idea to the Broyhill family and a broader philosophical purpose was developed.

The concept was the College's belief that traditional values of the Christian church and Western civilization are worthy of intellectual defense and positive declaration. Programs, projects, and activities were designed to raise economic literacy and increase citizen awareness of the importance of freedom, individuality, and autonomy to the strength and vitality of our society.

Since 1979 the Broyhill Academy has sponsored many programs designed to educate the public in economic awareness, business ethics, and managerial skills. To accomplish this, the Academy has offered numerous symposia for executives and religious and civic leaders.

Beverly Shuford of Shelby participated in a 1980 one-day seminar for women sponsored by the Broyhill Academy. She recently explained that the seminar was very helpful and encouraged her to establish in 1981 a business of her own. She told of another participant in the seminar who was similarly inspired and also became successful.

Ms. Shuford now operates Personnel Services Unlimited with offices in Forest City, Shelby, and Kings Mountain, a temporary staffing agency. She has two sons who also work in the business. She made a pledge to support Gardner-Webb financially and is most appreciative of the Broyhill Academy.

A program called the Summer Enrichment Experience (SEE) was begun in 1979. It involved gifted students from grades six to nine in a comprehensive two-week academic program conducted by the college faculty. Mrs. Jackie Lavender of Kings Mountain, Dr. Bob Morris and Dr. Jim Taylor served as directors of this special program.

New ideas were not confined to the classrooms. In 1980 President Williams introduced the concept of the Academic Cabinet of Deans. Dr. Knott had announced late in April his resignation as academic dean effective July 31, 1980. Instead of beginning a search for a new dean, Dr. Williams asked the four faculty-elected vice-chairmen to serve as an academic cabinet. He divided the traditional duties of the dean among these four persons: Dr. George Cribb, Dr. Robert Lamb, Dr. Paul Jolley, and Dr. Charles Andrews.

The cabinet system seemed to function well, and a survey of the faculty in November 1980, gave generally high marks to the system. However, in a later vote the faculty chose a return to one vice-president for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty.

At the November 20, 1981 faculty meeting, Dr. Williams asked the Administrative Advisory Committee to start looking for a dean of the faculty. Dr. John Drayer, current vice-chairman of the faculty, was asked to serve as acting vice-president for Academic Affairs, following that fall semester.

After a search, the Committee recommended to the president, and he agreed, that Dr. John Drayer be named Vice-president for Academic Affairs. Dr. Drayer had been a member of the Department of Religion and Philosophy since 1973. Before joining the Gardner-Webb faculty, he had served as an instructor in field education at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. Dr. Drayer held a B.A. degree from Belmont College in Nashville, TN and Ph.D., Th.M. and B.D. degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In 1982 a challenge of outreach was arising. A move was about to be made not only to enlarge the nursing program to provide a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, but to offer that program in Statesville. It began with a letter of intent drafted by the Nurse Education Committee of Statesville's Davis Hospital Board of Trustees, the Wagner Foundation of Statesville and the Executive Committee of Gardner-Webb's Board of Trustees recommending to the College's trustees that the BSN program be established under the wing of Davis Hospital.

The College's associate degree in nursing would continue to operate in Boiling Springs with the BSN program centered in Statesville. The Davis Foundation agreed to fund the Gardner-Webb nursing program in Statesville, including the provision of a building. A few months later this agreement was approved by the full Board of Trustees of Gardner-Webb, and this cooperative effort began.

While campus expansion was not a trademark of this period, the school did acquire the entire block south of the main campus. Boiling Springs Baptist Church still owned two houses and approximately two acres of land in this block on South Main Street and across the street in front of the John R. Dover Memorial Library. The rest of the block was owned by various individuals.

Each of the houses owned by the church had served as the parsonage. The older house was built in 1917. Rev. J.L. Jenkins, who was pastor from 1927-1952, and on two different occasions served as president of Gardner-Webb, lived with his family in this former parsonage. When Rev. Jenkins retired in 1952, the congregation of the church, because of their love and appreciation for him, voted for Rev. Jenkins and his family to continue living in the parsonage throughout his lifetime.

The newer house served as the parsonage for two pastors who followed Jenkins, the Rev. John Farrar and the Rev. Max Linnens. The church then decided to cease owning a parsonage but to instead provide the pastor with a housing allowance. In 1977 the College bought the houses and land from the church for \$57,500. The older house was razed, and the newer one soon became Noel House, the home for support programs for the visually handicapped and hearing impaired.

The other houses in this block were also bought by Gardner-Webb in this general period. Some were razed while others were eventually moved to other sites. Much of this block was later developed as Kathleen Dover Gardens.

Meanwhile, significant gifts of property came in from far and near. *The Web* of the winter of 1977 announced that Charlotte businessman A.T. Withrow, for whom the Withrow Science Building had been named, had turned over to the College real property in Charlotte valued at a third of a million dollars. Said Mr. Withrow, "I think it's a wonderful thing to be able to make a contribution to the welfare and development of humanity, especially to our young people. I hope they in turn will do likewise in

consideration of those who come after them. I don't consider a gift as being anything special except complete satisfaction for doing something worthwhile. I am simply returning to God that which has been put in my care for a short time."

For a time the president and his family lived in Webb Knoll, a home the College had bought some years earlier in Riverbend Acres, between Shelby and Boiling Springs. Then, on January 30, 1981, President Williams announced that the College had received as a gift the home of the late George and Ida Wood Blanton at 303 West Marion Street, in Shelby. The gift from George Blanton, Jr. and his sisters, Mrs. Caroline B. Thayer of Chestnut Hill, MA and Mrs. Millicent B. Thompson of Charlotte was to be used to establish an appropriate memorial to honor their parents. George Blanton, Sr. had originally purchased the stately home on West Marion Street in 1898 and the couple moved into it in the early 1900s. At the time of the gift the property was valued at \$130,000.

Said George Blanton, Jr., "My parents were always interested in Gardner-Webb. They were committed to education. Both were college educated and were very aware of the value of education, especially for their children."

During the next months there was discussion on how best to use this beautiful home. On May 29, 1981 the Board of Trustees approved the sale of Webb Knoll in Riverbend Acres, with the understanding that the Blanton house in Shelby would become the home for the president of Gardner-Webb. The trustees agreed to apply the money from the sale of Webb Knoll to the financing of the special events center on campus.

The Blanton gift came one week following the acceptance of another property, the old Star Publishing Building in downtown Shelby. Dr. Williams reported to the trustees that Henry Lee Weathers, chairman of the Star Publishing Company, had offered to donate the building to the College in memory of his father, Lee B. Weathers.

The trustees voted to accept the building and began looking for the most appropriate way for the College to benefit from this most generous gift. (This building had previously housed the *Shelby Daily Star* but by 1977, the newspaper had a new plant in Shelby.) The Star building was valued at \$100,000. The College sold the building in 1984 and used the money for academic purposes.

The one major construction planned on campus in this period was the building of a special events center.

Chapter 6

A *Shelby Daily Star* news story of January 31, 1978 emphasized the need for this facility, which would include a basketball arena. At that time Gardner-Webb was ranked number one in the NAIA basketball poll. It was noted in the media that at a recent home game, even the press had to be turned away from Bost Gymnasium by 7:00 p.m. Bost seated fewer than 2,000 people.

In discussions with the press, basketball coach Eddie Holbrook commented, "The present building was built for 600 junior college students and a junior college athletic program, not for a 1,400 student senior college athletic program with over a hundred majors in health and physical education."

The 1977 winter issue of the *Web* announced that Gardner-Webb was the recipient of a challenge gift up to \$100,000 from Charles I. Dover and the Dover Foundation. The gift launched the new \$10.5 million Bold Dimensions in Higher Education, which included the special events building.

In September 1978 Gardner-Webb officially kicked off its campaign to raise \$3.5 million to build the special events building. O. Max Gardner, III,

general campaign chairman, said, "Many years ago a lot of people had a dream for this College. We can make this dream come true. We are working on the last brick and mortar project on this campus for a long time to come."

As money was being raised, groundbreaking for the special events center occurred on October 22, 1979 as part of homecoming activities. In the meantime, a \$250,000 gift came from the Dover Foundation and Fox Wells, Incorporated of New York. It was announced that the theatre in the special events building would be named in honor of Kathleen Dover, wife of Charles I. Dover, and the lobby outside the theatre would be named in honor of John and Evelyn Dover Fox.

Money continued to be given and pledged. On April 25, 1980 Dr. Williams informed the trustees that a \$500,000 gift had been pledged to the College by the Lutz-Yelton Foundation. Shortly thereafter, it was agreed that the building under construction would be named the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.

When in the fall of 1979 O. Max Gardner, III resigned as chairman of fund-raising for the center,



The Blanton House – Home of the President of Gardner-Webb University



Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center

R. Patrick Spangler took over the chairmanship. By September 19, 1980 \$3,165,657 had been pledged toward the campaign goal of \$3,500,000.

At the fall convocation program in 1980, it was announced that Paul Porter had made a gift of \$200,000. Gifts for the convocation center in honor of Paul B. Porter at that time totaled \$300,000. Mr. Porter was chairman of Porter Brothers, Inc. of Shelby. In recognition of the generous contribution of the Porter family, the gymnasium in the convocation center was named the Paul Porter Arena.

Gardner-Webb had once operated Royster Hospital in Boiling Springs, but that arrangement had ceased and Royster was now under an independent board of trustees. In 1977 the new Crawley Hospital, named for John Crawley of Shelby, was built on West College Avenue. John Washburn, who had served as administrator of Royster Hospital, became president at Crawley. Mr. Washburn died suddenly in 1994, and Daphne Bridges now serves as president of Crawley Hospital. Crawley continues to serve university students and other university personnel. Two full-time doctors and twenty-three doctors on the

courtesy staff now serve this modern 60-bed hospital. The building which previously housed Royster Hospital now is a men's residence hall.

Woodlands which were once part of the college farm continued to be owned and managed by the College until 1981. At the meeting of the Executive Committee on May 29, 1981, the committee unanimously approved the sale of the farm lands to Federal Paper Company at \$600 per acre. The farm consisted of approximately 1,100 acres, and the total received from the sale amounted to \$642,000.

On January 15, 1982 it was announced that gifts totaling \$250,000 had been given to the College by the Broyhill Foundation of Lenoir. These gifts resulted in the naming of the Business Department of Gardner-Webb, the Broyhill School of Management, the first named department in the undergraduate school.

As a high school, junior college, and senior college, Gardner-Webb had always educated a large number of students preparing for church-related vocations. The January/February 1979 *Web* reported that there were 266 students preparing for church-related

careers, and in addition, at least seventy-eight students were already serving local churches in various types of ministries. For many years Gardner-Webb has had more students preparing for church-related vocations than any other Baptist college in North Carolina.

Because of the greater support from individuals, corporations, foundations, and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the presidency of Craven Williams, as well as the Elliott and Poston administrations, did not have the severe financial problems described in the early history of the school. However, the school had a relatively small endowment and was therefore extremely dependent upon tuition payments each year. The June 30, 1981 market value of the college's endowment was \$2.4 million. Dr. Williams told the trustees that in 1982-1983 the comprehensive fee (tuition, room, board, etc.) would probably exceed \$5,000. It was further pointed out that if the school overestimated its enrollment of students by ten, the college would have an immediate shortfall of \$50,000 revenue. Fortunately, in 1982-1983, Gardner-Webb for the second consecutive year had the largest increase in enrollment of the 28 member schools of the Independent College Fund of North Carolina. President Williams continued the policy of not asking for direct government aid; he reported to the trustees in 1982 that, according to a spokesman for the office of education, Gardner-Webb was one of only three colleges which had never asked for direct government aid nor accepted such funds.

Since becoming an accredited four-year college in 1971, the school's enrollment had gradually increased. Now, the president's report of October 7, 1983 stated that for the sixth consecutive year the fall enrollment showed a dramatic increase over the previous year. There was a total of 1,749 students in 1982 and 1,860 in 1983.

Amid the heady progress, there were tears. On January 27, 1983 Gardner-Webb experienced perhaps its most devastating trauma in its history. Three faculty members were returning from teaching a GOAL class in the Gardner-Webb evening school at Newton when their vehicle was involved in a two vehicle accident. All three professors, Mike Harrelson, James Henson, and John Rast were killed. The two persons riding in the other vehicle were also killed. In shock and in respect for these professors, classes were dismissed for several days. Many faculty, staff, administrators and students attended

the funerals of these professors, and memorial services held on campus.

An earlier loss came to memory again when in 1984, the decision was made to renovate the church annex, built in 1950. It would be named for Dr. Philip Lovin Elliott, an effective and beloved president who died suddenly, after eighteen years of service, in 1961. A fast \$150,000 was needed to meet a challenge grant given to Gardner-Webb for the renovation. The challenge was given in June and "We met the October 15 deadline," said Hank Garrity, Vice-president for Development.

During the administration of Dr. Williams, some of the old, "hippie-era" dress code rules were relaxed. These changes did not bring about a significant difference in the appearance or behavior of Gardner-Webb students. The "hippie" movement was declining by the Williams era (1976 to 1986); "beat" attitudes were always hard to find on campus, even at the height of the movement, and Gardner-Webb students seemed to hear no call to dress themselves as "statements" about anything beyond self-respect.

Athletics continued to be significant. Dr. Williams had been a student-athlete while in college and was supportive of the Gardner-Webb athletic programs and teams, which continued to compete successfully in the major sports. Though, based on wins and losses, some teams fell short of those in an earlier period. The long tenure of Norman Harris coaching several sports, 1945-1970, probably would not be duplicated, and the Holbrook period of 1964 to 1978 in basketball with its high percentage of wins would be almost impossible, for various reasons, to repeat. Eddie Holbrook resigned as head basketball coach in 1978 to become head basketball coach at Furman University.

On June 8, 1978 President Williams announced that Jim Wiles, Athletic Director and head basketball coach at Anderson College, had been named head basketball coach at Gardner-Webb. At Anderson College Coach Wiles had an overall record of 148 wins and 60 losses. On June 21, 1978 Dr. Garland Allen, successful golf coach whose teams had won national championships in 1976 and 1977, was named Acting Athletic Director. Dr. Allen taught full time during this period.

Gardner-Webb had a series of changes in the position of head football coach. Norman Harris had resigned in 1970 to begin a new era in his coaching career at Titusville, FL. From 1970 through 1974 George Litton coached the football team and carried the bulldogs to a bowl appearance in the Poultry Bowl at Gainesville, GA in 1973. Oval Jaynes was head

football coach from 1975 through 1977. In the fall of 1978 the *Web* announced that Billy Kinard, defensive secondary coach with the Cleveland Browns of the NFL the previous two seasons, had been named head football coach. Coach Kinard served as head coach for the 1978 season and in 1979, Tom Moore, an assistant coach at Clemson for nine years, was named head football coach and held this position from 1979 through 1982. In 1983 Ellis Johnson became the football coach for one year. Coach Woody Fish became Gardner-Webb's head football coach in 1984 and served in this position until 1997. Only the tenure of Norman Harris was longer than that of football Coach Woody Fish.

A unique, significant, and highly publicized athletic event on campus since 1973 has been the Special Olympics. For many years, Dr. Lonnie Proctor and Gardner-Webb students, in cooperation with the Northside School in Shelby, planned and supervised the Special Olympics in the Spangler Stadium on the Gardner-Webb campus.

On the tenth anniversary of Special Olympics in 1983, the Cleveland County Special Olympics received national and international attention when Dr. Proctor staffed a "Decade of Growth" display at the National Physical Education Association in Minneapolis. Other recognitions have come to the local program through articles in various journals and magazines.

In recognition of Dr. Williams' support of athletics, Athletic Director Hank Garrity planned a "roast" of President Williams, held on April 18, 1985. According to the 1985 summer edition of the *Web*, the president was good-naturedly teased, mocked, harassed, and kidded by his peers and family.

Dr. Williams was "roasted" by his wife, Beth Williams; Dr. James Ralph Scales, president emeritus of Wake Forest University; George Shinn, a Charlotte businessman and owner of the Charlotte Hornets NBA team; Eddie Wilkins and Dina Smith, Gardner-Webb basketball standouts, and others. Paul Cameron of WBTV-Charlotte was master of ceremonies.

According to the press, 300 people attended the "Roast" that raised over \$23,000 for the Gardner-Webb Bulldog Club. The money was used to expand the Bulldog room in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.

The *Web* summer edition of 1985 reported that Dr. Craven Williams, president of Gardner-Webb College since August 1, 1976, had submitted his resignation to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. The committee accepted his resignation at the regular scheduled meeting on July 25, 1985.

At their August 29, 1985 meeting, the Board of Trustees, while acting on the president's resignation, unanimously passed a motion made by Joe Byrd and seconded by Jewel Valentine that a statement of appreciation be placed in the minutes for President Williams' leadership at Gardner-Webb College, and for his willingness to continue his tenure as president through the present school year 1985-1986.

In submitting his resignation to Board chairman Hobart Smith of Charlotte, Dr. Williams said, "I have been a college administrator and/or teacher for twenty years. I have been part of a major private university, a woman's college and a men's college. Now I have been president of a private church-related college for ten years. It is a good time for Gardner-Webb College to continue its growth and development under new leadership, and it is a good time for me and my family to pursue other interests and opportunities." Dr. Williams announced plans to move to Raleigh where he would become president of Dominion Corporation, a company involved in land development, new construction and property management. The president also pointed out that the ten-year self-study for the Southern Association had just been completed and would be available to the next president. Dr. Williams had come in 1976 as the previous ten-year self study was completed.

In a recent interview, Dr. Williams said that if he were to err in either not staying long enough or staying too long as president, he did not want to err in staying too long. He also said that at the time of his resignation his parents were planning to move to Raleigh and enter a retirement home. Williams laughingly noted that he also wanted to see if he could make a living without being dependent upon a Board of Trustees. Dr. Williams, for a time, had considered running for the U.S. House of Representatives seat being vacated by Congressman Jim Broyhill but decided against it.

Of his Gardner-Webb experience, Dr. Williams said that in 1976 when he came to Gardner-Webb, the College was only five years old as a senior college, and was therefore an "adolescent" at the time of his departure. He felt that while he was president the school developed more of a personality of its own as a four-year school, and its programs had caught the public eye.

At the same time that the Executive Committee acted on Dr. Williams' resignation, a search committee for the next president of Gardner-Webb was announced. Hobart C. Smith of Charlotte,

chairman of the Board of Trustees, also chaired the search committee which included trustees George Blanton, Jr., chairman of the Board of the First National Bank of Shelby; Lloyd Bost, president of Bost Bakery of Shelby; Ann Blanton Hardy, alumna and trustee from Greensboro, NC; Bernard Parker, vice-president of Nationwide Insurance Company of Raleigh, and Dr. Timothy Pennell, professor of surgery, Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem.

As the search for a new president began, the Administrative Advisory Committee of the faculty surveyed the faculty to develop a profile of the qualifications they felt the new president should have. Thirty-one responses were received. There were numerous suggestions, with the following being often mentioned:

- (1) *The new president should possess visibility in and support of the Baptist denomination and the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.*
- (2) *The new president should have knowledge of and/or abilities in fund-raising.*
- (3) *The new president should have an earned doctorate.*
- (4) *The new president should support the idea of faculty self-governance.*

In 1985-1986, in the period of the change of presidents, the school experienced a financial deficit. In the fall of 1985 the on-campus enrollment was lower than anticipated and during the school year 1985-1986 the administration of President Williams made several attempts at reducing expenses.

At the year-end trustee meeting the reasons cited for the deficit were primarily unrealistic revenue projections. In 1985 the Administration had overestimated enrollment for the fall of 1985. Another factor that affected the deficit was that the amount of money coming to the school through fundraising and entrepreneur projects was below projections.

During the ten years of the presidency of Craven Williams, programs were begun which further clarified the identity and role of the College. Programs such as GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners), degree programs for the deaf and blind, the interpreter training program, the Broyhill Academy for the Study of Independent Concepts (BASIC) - all opened doors for many students who otherwise would not have had access to further educational opportunities.

As these programs were being developed, the book value of the endowment increased from \$1,500,000 in 1976 to \$4,145,000 in 1986. In the same period, the number of full-time faculty increased from 73 to 94, and the student enrollment increased from 1,149 to 1,830.

During the Williams presidency, a major campus building, the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center, was constructed. The Blanton house in Shelby was given to the College, and the house became the Gardner-Webb president's home.

The 1986 spring edition of the *Web* included articles reviewing the presidency of Craven Williams. Several persons connected with Gardner-Webb, including Dr. Paul Jolley, chairman of the Department of Mathematics, commented on Williams's accomplishments. According to Dr. Jolley, the Williams administration had developed existing programs, begun new programs and continued faculty development.



Deaf students signing for a worship service

The College Becomes A University

Gardner-Webb's trustees met in executive session on December 30, 1985 to elect the tenth president of the College.

A motion was made by Hobart Smith, chairman of the Search Committee, that Dr. M. Christopher White, Vice-president for Academic and Student Affairs at Elon College, be employed as president of Gardner-Webb to succeed Dr. Craven Williams. The motion passed unanimously.

Soon after the announcement was made in Boiling Springs that Dr. White would be coming to Gardner-Webb on June 1, 1986 *The Pendulum*, the campus newspaper at Elon College, reported on January 16, 1986 that their Vice-president for Student and Academic Affairs was going to become the next president of Gardner-Webb. Dr. White had held the second-in-charge seat at Elon since 1983. Between 1972 and 1983, he had served Elon variously as professor and chairman of the Department of Religion, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and Dean of Academic Affairs.

While teaching at Elon, he was the highest-ranked professor as evaluated by students in 1974, 1975 and 1976. Dr. White, in his comments in the Elon publication, said that being selected for such a position was not only a commendation for himself but also for Elon and President Fred Young of Elon who had prepared him for the college presidency. Dr. White on several occasions made it clear that he had enjoyed his years at Elon but as a Baptist had desired someday to be president of a Baptist college or university.

An April 23, 1987 article written by Jack V. Harwell, editor of *The Christian Index*, the Georgia Baptist Convention news magazine, reported that during his boyhood in Hart County, GA Dr. White had been active in Sunday School, church training and Royal Ambassadors. He had won regional, state and national honors in sword drills and better speakers competitions.



Dr. M. Christopher White
President 1986 - present

Dr. White was born on October 16, 1943 in Hartwell, GA. In 1965 he received an A.B. degree with high academic honors from Mercer University. In 1968 he earned his M.Div. degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, finishing second in his class. Emory University awarded him a Ph.D. in 1972 in his major field, Biblical Studies.

Dr. White is an ordained Baptist minister and has held pastorates in Georgia, Kentucky and North Carolina. The *Shelby Daily Star* reported on June 3, 1986 that between Dr. White's selection to the top Gardner-Webb post and his move into that office the following June, the newly-elected president had made frequent, brief visits to the campus, walking about unescorted and unannounced. Dr. White was quoted as saying, "I've had time to think and do research and contemplate some things I want to do."

In a letter on September 23, 1986 addressed to all college employees, President White wrote that educational institutions, including Gardner-Webb, exist to help train students and that no service-oriented business can prosper without a sense of responsiveness, a "May I help you?" approach.

With these observations in mind, the new president listed a set of principles on which the school could build to make a good college into a great college:

- (1) *Gardner-Webb is one college with different programs, those on campus which are part of the regular day program, the GOAL program offered primarily in the evening and designed for adults who desire to complete in one or several locations their bachelor's degree program, and the master's program which began in 1980. "Every program," Dr. White emphasized, "has value and will be essential to the college's future success."*
- (2) *The welfare of our students will be our major priority.*

- (3) All students, regardless of program, will be accorded equal consideration.
- (4) All employees of the College, regardless of position, will be viewed as valuable members of the community.
- (5) Each employee will be encouraged to perform his/her service as if he/she were on the receiving point rather than the delivery point of the transaction.
- (6) In so far as possible, the employee reward structure will focus less on seniority and more on productivity, attitude and teamwork which result in a better community.
- (7) Pride in our physical environment will be more important than ever.



Such was the standard that Dr. White set for himself and the Gardner-Webb family, and with no ado, he went straight to work. At that time both finances and enrollment were slipping backward. Developing donors and new financial vitality became a top priority, as did creating and expanding out-of-the-ordinary programs, such as GOAL for working adults, assisted studies for the deaf and blind, development of the divinity school, and bachelor's and associate's degree programs in nursing, which brought in new and committed students. New majors, such as sports medicine - an increasingly popular vocation, and sign language, less common but important, made the catalog.

Despite the dip in the numbers of high school graduates, Gardner-Webb's enrollment turned upward again. Evening programs now serve over 1,000 students at many locations.

As Dr. Williams was labeled for thrift, Dr. White soon became known for cleaning up. A faculty member now recalls, "Ten years ago the dorms were run down; we had to invest in where the kids lived before we could worry about the other programs."

Dr. White, whom colleagues say is good at identifying problems and is inclined to tackle - thoroughly - one or two at a time, however the waiting factions may grumble, enlisted campus help in bringing order and beauty to buildings and grounds. In the summer of 1986, the president led the College in a clean-up day. Members of the administration, faculty and staff labored through that first work-day trimming shrubbery, removing debris and generally improving the appearance of the campus. Since then each year there have been one or more similar work days.

Campus aesthetics, in White's view, have serious practical value. He observes that a school with unkempt grounds and run-down buildings is not going to symbolize a fine education and caring faculty when prospective students come visiting. Also, unlike those in early years who were at home with Spartan living, students today are used to amenities such as air-conditioning; such comforts are no longer considered luxuries.

That same unusually hot, dry first summer a million-dollar renovation project included the installation of air-conditioning in three women's residence halls. Early in his presidency Dr. White went through every room in every building on campus with a pad and pen to prioritize repairs and clean-ups.

While the College trustees were seeking and hiring a new president, the faculty was involved in preparing



Annual Campus Clean-up Day

the regular ten-year self-study which all colleges and universities must do for purposes of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The Southern Association, as well as other accrediting agencies, expects an institution of higher education to define its purpose clearly and be able to show that the institution is attempting to carry out that purpose.

Gardner-Webb's earlier statement of purpose declared, through many years and several presidencies, "The purpose of Gardner-Webb College is to develop quality Christian students who think for themselves and who will dedicate themselves to the Christian way of life in the vocation of their choice."

In order to meet the requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and to position the institution for the twenty-first century, President White and Provost Dr. Frank Bonner led the University community through an intensive analysis which resulted in a new and expanded statement of purpose. That statement, as approved by the faculty and trustees, appears in all official catalogs and reads as follows:

Gardner-Webb is a private coeducational university affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Its purpose is to provide learning of distinction in the liberal

arts and in professional studies within a caring community based upon Christian principles and values. Students, faculty and staff are part of a community of learning, and Gardner-Webb seeks to prepare and encourage students to make meaningful contributions to the global community in which we live. To this end, the University strives to develop students intellectually, spiritually, socially and physically. They should be able to think independently and critically, communicate effectively, relate well to persons of diverse backgrounds, understand the natural world, understand the development of civilization, understand and appreciate aesthetic values, and grow spiritually. To support this development and foster a community dedicated to life-long learning, Gardner-Webb emphasizes Christian values, academic freedom with responsibility, free intellectual inquiry and discussion, recognition of the dignity and worth of the individual, and strong faculty-student relationships. While pursuing these values, Gardner-Webb seeks to instill the traits of good citizenship in its students and strives to be a good institutional citizen.

The reference to life in the global community is most pertinent in light of the changing geographical

composition of the student body through the school's history. The high school at first attracted students primarily from Cleveland County and two adjoining counties, Rutherford and Gaston. Gradually, as a college, the school attracted students from many states and countries. Activities and programs were developed and personnel employed to help make the transition easier as students came to the school from many different countries and cultures.

Another illustration of the more cosmopolitan student body occurred on August 4, 1989 when Gardner-Webb announced that the school would be the "Southern connection" with a Japanese university. The U.S.A. Transfer Program, a cooperative program between Dhoto University in Sapporo, Japan and five American colleges, including Gardner-Webb, would allow Japanese students to do the last two years of upper-class study in an American college or university. Dhoto would send up to twenty juniors each year to Gardner-Webb.

Since the agreement with Dhoto University, forty Japanese students, including those currently enrolled, have attended Gardner-Webb, and twelve Japanese students have graduated from this institution.

In January 1991 Jean Cabaniss, a Gardner-Webb and Wake Forest graduate, became the first director of the International Student Program at Gardner-Webb. Mrs. Cabaniss served as a teacher and missionary in many parts of the world, including Japan, Hawaii and the Gaza Strip. She was responsible for planning learning activities for the students from Dhoto as well as other foreign students. During the spring of 1995, enrollment included fifty-one international students from twenty-nine countries.

Globalization is not a one-way street; several academic departments have developed overseas programs which enable students to travel and study the languages and cultures of many nations and regions.

Dr. Gilmer Blackburn, Vice-president and Dean of Academic Affairs, was selected by the U.S. Congress to attend the 1996 Fulbright Seminar University of Administrators in Germany. While there he visited eighteen schools to learn how he could better encourage American students to study abroad and foster international study in America. Dr. Blackburn taught German history for twenty years at Gardner-Webb and authored *Education in the Third Reich: A Study of Race and History in Nazi Textbooks*, published in 1985.

Experts in international trade, Drs. Anthony Negbenebor and Keith Griggs co-authored *Steps to*

Successful Exporting, a how-to manual for international commerce.

In May 1996 the school forged an impressive international link with Sookmyung Women's University of South Korea. The agreement provides for 'sharing of faculty, students and information between Gardner-Webb and the second-largest women's university in the world. Similar agreements are being negotiated with universities in Australia, Germany, China and other countries.

While Gardner-Webb was receiving more students from abroad, the school was also being recognized for its dedication to building Christian character. In 1991, Gardner-Webb was one of the 108 colleges and universities named in the John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll for character-building schools. The honor-roll acknowledges those schools which "best exemplify campuses that encourage the development of strong moral character among students." Since 1991 Gardner-Webb has continued to receive special recognition from the John Templeton Foundation.

The University under Dr. White's leadership has continued with fundraising efforts. During the Elliott and Poston administrations much of the emphasis was upon raising money for building a campus. Endowment was a top priority during the tenure of Craven Williams. Dr. White has continued with an emphasis upon endowment and faculty development. However, significant building and reconstruction have been done during White's administration.

On October 24, 1986 Dr. White announced that Gardner-Webb was preparing to launch a two-year fundraising campaign for \$5,950,000 to be used for endowment and for faculty enrichment. Lloyd C. Bost, retired executive of Bost Bakery in Shelby, would step down as chairman of the school's Board of Trustees early in 1987 to serve as national chairman for the "Bridge to the Future" campaign, to be launched in the spring in conjunction with the inauguration of Dr. White. Some three million dollars of the fund, when raised, would be used to increase the school's endowment; \$500,000 would be used to provide endowed professorships, and \$2.3 million would be used for renovations and construction projects. One such project would be an observatory to house quality telescopes owned by the College.

Previous presidents of Gardner-Webb had emphasized the importance of good teaching. Dr. White early in his presidency gave tangible emphasis to the importance of teaching. In March 1987 he

announced the Fleming-White award in honor of his and Mrs. White's parents who, as Dr. White remarked, "were very good teachers by example." The Whites endowed a fund to recognize the most outstanding teacher at the institution each year. Dr. White said, "The purpose of the endowment is to heighten the emphasis on excellence in teaching by the faculty at Gardner-Webb." A cash award of \$1,000 and an appropriate plaque have been given to the outstanding teacher of the year since 1987. Recipients include: 1987 - Charles S. Andrews; 1988 - Robert E. Morgan; 1989 - Ted R. Monroe; 1990 - Frieda F. Brown; 1991 - Alice R. Cullinan; 1992 - Anthony F. Eastman; 1993 - Delores M. Hunt; 1994 - Barry E. Hambright; 1995 - Thomas H. Jones; 1996 - Jack G. Partain.

Following three days of inaugural activities beginning on April 6, 1987 the inauguration of Dr. White as president of Gardner-Webb took place on April 8, at 10:30 a.m. An article in *The Web*, spring of 1987 by Evans P. Whitaker, Executive Assistant to the President, reminded readers that not since the 1962 inauguration of Dr. Poston had there been such a gala affair on the Gardner-Webb campus. The invocation was given by the Rev. Monroe M. (Monk) Ashley, campus minister. Greetings were extended to the crowd of about 1,200 people by Michael John Rousseaux, president of the Student Government Association. Remarks were made by Gilmer W. Blackburn, Vice-chairman of the faculty and professor of history; Robert M. Pettyjohn, president of the Alumni Association; Sam H. McMahon, Jr., Vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees; Arthur L. Walker, Jr., Executive Director-Treasurer of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention; Roy J. Smith, Executive Director-Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; John T. Henly, president of the North Carolina Association of Independent Colleges and Universities; James W. Bishop, director of the governor's western office in North Carolina; George W. Clay, mayor of the city of Shelby, and John Washburn, Jr., mayor of Boiling Springs.

Lloyd Bost, Chairman of the Gardner-Webb Board of Trustees, introduced C.D. Spangler, Jr., President of the Consolidated University of North Carolina. Mr. Bost noted, "Mr. Spangler is not a stranger to Cleveland County and Gardner-Webb College. Indeed, his parents, C.D. and Vera Yelton Spangler, grew up in Cleveland County."

President Spangler said in his address, "We live in changing times, which are the best kind. We move forward and yet we try to find enduring values and cling to them. This is as it should be. Being here today - thinking about how much the world and I have changed - and how little - gives me great hope for the future, and for the future of Gardner-Webb."

Hobart Smith, chairman of the Presidential Search Committee, introduced Dr. White to the assembled guests. Mr. Smith referred to Dr. White's background in teaching, writing and administration and said, "While managing the many tasks as an executive administrator at Elon, he has also been active as a Sunday School teacher and part-time pianist at the First Baptist Church in Burlington and as pastor and interim pastor of numerous churches."

Dr. White's inaugural address was entitled, "The Only Place of Its Kind." The new president briefly traced important milestones in the history of Gardner-Webb and referred thus to its founders:

They were committed to the belief that humankind is the most important aspect of God's universe and all our freedoms, including religious freedom, will best be maintained and enhanced by a broadly educated society. Throughout our eighty-two years, Gardner-Webb has remained true to its Christian heritage as she grew from high school status to a junior college and to a senior college.

President White pledged that during his tenure, he would remain true to that heritage and respond faithfully to the trust granted him. "We will," he said, "to paraphrase Will and Ariel Durant, 'gather up as much as we can of our civilized heritage and transmit it to our children' all within the framework of a community of Christian teachers and scholars."

President White paid tribute to the Gardner-Webb faculty and its role in making the College what it had become. He further commented, "I know full well that whatever we achieve will come about principally because of the capable and dedicated efforts of our trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends."

White's inauguration was widely publicized in newspapers, in the *Biblical Recorder* and in other Baptist publications. In the May 16, 1987 issue of the *Biblical Recorder* editor G.H. Puckett wrote, "Were it possible, every North Carolina Baptist should have been present at Gardner-Webb for the inauguration of M. Christopher White as the tenth president of

the institution. It was a moment to make us proud as the largest religious body in the state."

During the three days of inauguration activities, some large financial contributions were announced. The *Shelby Daily Star* reported on April 8, 1987 that on the previous night the Dover Foundation made a gift of more than a half-million dollars to Gardner-Webb. The gift was in connection with the College's upcoming \$5.95 million fundraising drive. Hoyt Bailey made the announcement of the generous gift during the inaugural dinner. "The gift," said Bailey, "is in keeping with the goal of the new fundraising drive, 'keeping Gardner-Webb on a firm foundation'."

The *Cleveland Times* of July 2, 1987 reported over \$2 million since the kickoff in March of the College's funding campaign. The goal for Cleveland County was \$2.6 million. On April 9, 1987 President White spoke at the Lutz-Yelton Foundation banquet at which it was announced that the Lutz-Yelton Foundation would award annual scholarships totaling \$12,000 to graduating high school seniors from Rutherford, Polk and Cleveland Counties.

Gardner-Webb's total number of student scholarships and their monetary value continued to grow. The 1987 spring edition of *The Web* reported the first luncheon in which individuals, churches and foundations who had contributed to endowed scholarships sat down with the student recipients. The luncheon was Dr. White's idea; he felt that the College should provide donors and recipients the opportunity to enjoy some time together. These luncheons have been well attended each year since 1986.

Currently Gardner-Webb has over 300 endowed scholarships. The Fall 1996 enrollment of 2,762 is the school's largest ever. As White observed, the enrollment has grown in part because of the many scholarships, without which many would not have had the money to enroll.

In 1991 Gardner-Webb officials announced plans for a matching scholarship program for Southern Baptist churches. Gardner-Webb would match any scholarship given by a Southern Baptist church, up to \$2,500 per year. In addition to keeping close ties with the churches, this program also helped in student recruitment.

Other types of gifts were coming in also. The Belk-Ellis Computer Center was dedicated at a breakfast honoring the donors: the W.P. Ellis family of Shelby, the Belk Foundation and the Belk stores of Shelby and Forest City. The donors gave \$100,000 in the spring of 1988, designating the fund for two purposes

- the computer center and the Belk-Ellis Endowed Scholarship Fund. The computer center has been a great asset to Gardner-Webb and its educational program, and the Belk-Ellis scholarship has assisted a qualified business student to attend Gardner-Webb each year.

The College, in an earlier period, developed special programs for students with academic difficulties. Then, in the fall of 1987, the school began an interdisciplinary College Honors Program, designed to nurture academically-gifted students. The acting chairs in 1987 were Dr. Barbara Burkett and Dr. Jim Taylor. Freshmen selected into the program were those who demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities, a high level of ability in academics and a strong participation in extra-curricular activities while in high school. The Honors Program, according to Dr. Taylor, would enhance the overall academic reputation of the College. "We believe in it," he said. Dr. Rudee Boan, professor of sociology, directed the program for several years. From 1991 to 1995 the program was directed by Dr. G. Clinton Prim. In 1995 Dr. Tom Jones became director. The program has attracted superior students and has added an extra dimension to the curriculum.

With each new president, changes down the administration chain tend to be expected. In January 1987 Dean John Drayer announced his plan to return to teaching in the Department of Religion. Area newspapers announced on March 18 that Dr. A. Frank Bonner of Anderson College in Anderson, SC had been named Vice-president and Dean of Academic Affairs. At the time of Dr. Bonner's selection he was serving as Associate Dean for Special Programs at Anderson College. He had been a professor of English for nine years and had served as chairman of the faculty. In announcing Bonner's appointment President White said, "Next to the selection of the president of a college, the selection of the chief academic officer has a rank of second in importance. Dr. Bonner will be the key administrator for that which is at the core of the College's existence - academics. Dr. Bonner possesses that rare combination of strong leadership, impeccable academic credentials, professional experience, commitment to our Baptist heritage and an engaging personality."

Dr. Bonner holds a B.A. degree in English from Furman University, an M.A. from the University of Georgia and a Ph.D. from UNC-Chapel Hill with a major in English. His father was a longtime professor of English and Provost at Furman University.

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In January 1988 Melvin Lutz was named Dean of Academic Advising, to assume his new responsibilities in June that year Lutz was in charge of developing an academic advising center that would assist students in selecting majors and courses of study. He had been Vice-president for Student Services since 1982. He holds degrees from Gardner-Webb, Mars Hill and Florida State University.

In the spring of 1988 Dr. Richard Franklin was named Vice-president and Dean of Student Development. His duties included those formerly under Melvin Lutz, long-time chief of student affairs.

As new members of the Gardner-Webb faculty and administration were joining the College community, the school was gaining support from new benefactors. But then, on March 19, 1990 one long-time faithful and generous friend was gone, when Charles I. Dover died at Cleveland Memorial Hospital. An article in *The Cleveland Times* of March 22, 1990 reported, "Charles I. Dover always wanted to make a difference in his community, and Mr. Dover was especially proud of Gardner-Webb College. He and the Dover Foundation donated millions of dollars to further Christian education at Gardner-Webb."

"Mr. Dover," the article affirmed, "did make a difference. Much of the difference made by this gentle man was through the Dover Foundation established in 1944." Scholarships and direct contributions to Gardner-Webb and other institutions by Mr. Dover and the Dover Foundation had been frequent, and many times, large. The news media reminded readers that the Gardner-Webb Campus Center is named for Mr. Dover, and the Kathleen Dover Theatre was built in memory of Mr. Dover's wife.

Dr. White said, as part of Charles Dover's eulogy:

Today Gardner-Webb stands proud and tall, growing in quality and quantity. Could Gardner-Webb have survived without Charles I. Dover and the Dover Foundation? Probably, but Gardner-Webb would not be the vital institution she is. What is the measure of Mr. Dover; what is his legacy? It is the thousands of students at Gardner-Webb who can study and learn because of him. The College and Mr. Dover had a mutual admiration society. He loved the College; the College loved him.

It was a healthy, growing monument that Charles Dover left behind. Some of the Gardner-Webb

highlights of 1989: A record 2,163 enrollment in fall 1989 - the fourth consecutive "biggest" in as many years; full residence halls at the start of the fall semester; record gifts received in fiscal year 1988-89; the transfer agreement with Doto University in Japan; academic program enhancements; an exceptional recruiting year for new faculty; the Honors Program achieving recognition in its second year of operation; the faculty review of General Education requirements making good progress; Student Development Program enhancements; successful athletic programs and other good news on campus programs.

Much was also accomplished in campus enhancements: all residence hall rooms were at last air-conditioned; construction was underway on the Craven Williams Observatory, with completion scheduled for Spring 1990; improvements were made in the Gardner Fine Arts Hall and the Noel House; trustees approved renovation of the Dover Campus Center; approval was received in December to obtain most of the old Boiling Springs Elementary School and four acres of land.

As the school moved into the 1990s President White in his "Board Update," a publication sent to the various boards of the College, wrote:

Gardner-Webb College enters the 1990s full of hope, enthusiasm and appreciation. Because of her distinctive character, we are full of hope that God will continue to bless. Because of recent growth in enrollment, gifts and quality academic and student life programs, we are full of enthusiasm. We are full of appreciation for the numerous persons who support this fine institution.

An exciting project on the Gardner-Webb campus in 1990 was the renovation of the Charles I. Dover Campus Center - a \$2 million -dollar project. The center was originally built in 1966 on the site of the Huggins-Curtis Building, which burned in 1957. The improvements in 1990 were primarily interior reconstruction. The remodeling was needed, said Dr. White, because of the growth of the College and the need to provide a place for students, faculty and staff to meet.

Half of the cost of the project was provided by the Dover Foundation. According to Dr. White, Charles I. Dover "had a lot of input when it came to upgrading the facility. Mr. Dover's love for the outdoors was especially evident in one of the renovated center's

show-places - a large hunting-like lounge complete with fireplace."

When completed, the interior of the building was transformed into a structure that was aesthetically pleasing and much more functional as a campus center. Office space for student activities was increased, and the room with an open fireplace and other comfortable areas, including the cafeteria, transformed the building into a center of which students could be proud.

In February 1991 Dr. White commended trustee John McCulloch for his outstanding work as architect for the renovation of the Dover Center and praised the Board for its wisdom in deciding to complete the project at one time rather than in more costly phases.

A new building dedicated in 1990 was the Craven Williams Observatory, named in honor of the former president who served the College for the decade 1976-86. In 1988, when the plans for the building were announced, the Department of Natural Sciences owned five high-quality telescopes. Two of them required the protection of an observatory dome, where they would be free of harmful vibrations.

The estimated construction cost was \$107,000, largely provided by area donations totaling \$43,000 and a matching grant from the Janirve Foundation of Asheville. Some funds also came from the College. Staff member Dr. Robert Parsons and Tom English, the school's first astronomer faculty member, were major players in the construction.

The building of the observatory was a cooperative effort involving Baptist men, individuals and church groups. The Craven E. Williams Observatory was dedicated on October 13, 1990. The dedication program listed the names of 135 individuals who had helped with the construction, twenty church groups that had provided meals and twenty-nine suppliers and contractors. The program also reported that the observatory is the only such facility within a forty-five mile radius of the Gardner-Webb campus.

At the February 26, 1991 trustees meeting, President White alluded to Charles Dickens's opening line in *A Tale of Two Cities*, saying, "It is the best of times and the worst of times." As for the "best," Dr. White declared the campus and buildings to be in perhaps the best condition ever; also it is the "best of times, for gifts to the College are up and the College is concluding two of its best years of growth."

As for the "worst of times," Dr. White reported: "The College is being adversely affected by the

recession. Recent articles in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* indicate that many colleges are experiencing grave financial situations, even very elite colleges."

While the College was definitely in a much better financial situation than it had known throughout much of its history, it was still operating on a close budget. And while the endowment had increased in recent years, the College was still very dependent upon tuition to keep the school in the black.

Much credit for the comparative financial health of the school, even in generally precarious times, was due to the money-raising genius of Pat Spangler. It was indeed one of the "worst of times" when Spangler died, on July 11, 1987.

A few weeks before Dr. White's Dickens reference, a main gate entrance at Gardner-Webb was dedicated to R. Patrick Spangler. Pat Spangler had served as chairman of the Board of Trustees and had headed fundraising campaigns for the school. He was the 1972 recipient of the Doctor of Humanities degree. His name is carried on one of the men's residence halls. In addition, Pat Spangler and his family built Gardner-Webb's Spangler Stadium in memory of his father.

Money for erection of the Spangler Gate was from a generous gift by the Carolina Freight Corporation of Cherryville, NC. Mr. Spangler was a long-time member of that company's Board of Directors.

The area where the gate is located and much of the land in front of Webb Hall had earlier been the location of G.T. McSwain's store. Pat Spangler was instrumental in getting Mr. McSwain to sell the property to the College.

In the early 1990s many positive things were taking place on campus. Dr. White summarized Gardner-Webb's highlights of 1990 in the President's "Board Update" of January 29, 1991: Completion and dedication of the Craven E. Williams Observatory; completion of the \$2 million renovation of the Charles I. Dover Campus Center; purchase and renovation of the old Boiling Springs Elementary School Building as the College's physical plant building; purchase of the home of Dr. Garland Hendricks for use as the College's Communication House (local readers will know this house as the former home of Herman and Zula Howington); purchase of the Doctors' Building for use as the College's Admission Center; recognition of Gardner-Webb for the second consecutive year by the Templeton Foundation; second-largest year in

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college history for total gifts (\$2,528,192), and for enrollment (2,074 in fall 1990).

The bad news was that another friend and supporter of the school, Mae Cline (Mrs. Rush) Stroup, died on June 22, 1990. At her funeral, Dr. White eulogized Mrs. Stroup, in part by reading from an article by Dr. John Roberts entitled "An Unusual Woman," published in the *Biblical Recorder* in 1960. Mrs. Stroup, the President said, was a business leader; "an able assistant to her husband, Rush, in the Eagle's 5 and 10 Stores, she took over after his untimely death in 1930 and built a fledgling empire. She was a business leader when it was not fashionable for women to do such. In recent years her life has been an example for women students at Gardner-Webb. She succeeded, and they can too."

Dr. White then explored Mrs. Stroup's interest in higher education: "But you must ask, how can this be unusual? Well, just listen: trustee of three Baptist colleges, first woman trustee at Wake Forest University, first woman Board of Trustees chairman (Gardner-Webb), honored by having residence halls at two colleges named in her honor.

"Mrs. Stroup was first elected as a trustee in 1933; she served numerous terms. At one time or another she held every office on the Board. One of my favorite

pictures of her was taken in the 1960s. In the photograph she is confidently leading the academic processional to commencement ceremonies. Awarded the honorary Doctor of Humanities in 1976, she was among the first persons ever awarded Trustee Emeritus status in 1988.

"I will never forget the first time I met Mrs. Stroup, four years ago. She sized me up and said, 'Well, I helped pick out the three presidents before you, and I wanted to see how they could do without my help.' Thankfully she accepted me and my family anyway."

In adding new programs, the school hit an untapped vein when in 1991 planners reached out to the area's over-55 population. A series of 10-week courses in economics, history, literature and other areas of interest has brought in sizeable numbers of elder students in search of informative and stimulating new exercises for the mind. Nancy Bottoms, wife of economics professor Glenn Bottoms, has directed the program for senior adults since its beginning.

World changes, expanded travel and commerce and new access for missions activity, along with human curiosity, have boosted interest in Russian history courses now part of the curriculum. During the 1991-92 school year the course in Russian history was a factor in the College's developing a trip to Russia in



Spangler Gate

the summer of 1992. Since that time Dr. Alexandre Strokanov of Russia has been a visiting professor of history at Gardner-Webb. Many Russian students have enrolled, and several trips to Russia have been made by faculty, students and administrators.

The nursing program has continued to grow and adapt to the needs of the area. For several years the B.S.N. programs operated both in Statesville and on the Boiling Springs Campus. In 1987 the program at Boiling Springs was discontinued. In the spring of 1995 the Boiling Springs B.S.N. program was re-established on the Gardner-Webb campus in response to renewed interest. There are currently two nursing degree programs: the A.A. degree on campus and the B.S.N. degree in Boiling Springs, Charlotte and Statesville.

At the opening university convocation on August 27, 1995 Dr. Shirley Toney was named Dean of the School of Nursing. Prof. Wanda Stutts serves as chair of the B.S.N. program at Statesville and Charlotte, and Dr. Cindy Miller chairs the program at Boiling Springs. The nursing school boasts both state and national accreditation for its associate degree and B.S.N programs.

The Gardner-Webb University Theatre has widened its horizons and its audiences since John Brock became its director in 1987. Each recent year some 7,000 people have come to see such productions as "Barefoot in the Park", "Steel Magnolias", "The Sound of Music", "Look Homeward, Angel", "Hello, Dolly", "Oklahoma" and "My Fair Lady."

Justifiably proud of the theater and its technical capabilities, Brock says, "We have one of the finest facilities available to any university - large or small."

Also an area of pride is the Department of Fine Arts, chaired by Dr. Terry Fern and accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. Dr. Fern succeeded Dr. George Cribb, who receives much credit for his work in developing excellence in the music program.

For most of the past decade, Gardner-Webb has been first in the state in producing graduates with teaching degrees, on both bachelor's and master's levels. The teacher education program earned full national accreditation under the leadership of Dr. Dee Hunt, the University's first Dean of the School of Education.

An amazing series of events occurred at Gardner-Webb in the 1980s and early 1990s, when in quick and overlapping succession programs for the

handicapped evolved, the School of Divinity was established and the College became the University.

A generous benefactor of handicapped students was Mrs. Marguerite Noel of Kannapolis, NC who first became involved with the program in 1983. In memory of her husband, an ophthalmologist who served the Kannapolis area for nearly thirty years, Mrs. Noel endowed the George T. Noel Fund, a scholarship program for visually-impaired students.

A second major endowment established in 1986 by Mrs. Noel provided housing in a completely renovated facility, the Noel House, which contains the University programs for handicapped students. This facility was dedicated in honor of Mrs. Noel and in memory of her husband. (This building, which was bought from Boiling Springs Baptist Church in an earlier period, is on campus across the street from the John R. Dover Memorial Library.)

Mrs. Noel financed the conversion of the building into a learning center for the hearing and visually-impaired, with all the equipment that handicapped students need in their daily studies and communication. According to a news article in her hometown paper, *The Daily Independent*, "She saw the need for furniture and went after it; what she didn't have at home or couldn't beg or borrow from friends, she went to stores and bought. When the need for transportation arose, she found a truck. She visited the center often and watched the students at work and learned a lot about them. When she didn't take goodies, she took students to lunch."

The department has also received financial assistance from many businesses, civic clubs and individuals.

The program for the deaf and blind has evolved into the Noel Programs for the Disabled, a comprehensive program for students with a wide range of disabilities. As described in material explaining the program, its philosophy is "to provide support services that create an environment in which disabled students have the opportunity of an equal education in a mainstream environment and through educational, personal and social growth they may become independent, contributing members of society." The director of the Noel Programs is Sharon D. Jennings. A visitor in November, 1995 was Heather Whitestone, Miss America of 1994, who is hearing-impaired.

At summer commencement in 1988 Gardner-Webb honored Mrs. Noel for her dedication and service by awarding her the honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. Sadly, Mrs. Noel could not be present to hear



Noel Hall - School of Divinity

the thanks for all the money, time, talent and concern she had invested in Gardner-Webb's pioneering programs for the disabled. She was in Brunswick County Hospital recovering from a severe stroke compounded by a heart attack which she had recently suffered. Her three daughters, Marylene H. Noel, Jere Noel Blackburn and Marguerite "Rita" Noel Martin accepted the honor in her absence.

Early in his presidency Chris White went with his assistant Evans Whitaker to call upon Mrs. Noel, who already was a major donor to the College. White had educated himself about the lady's interests in preparation for this visit; he knew that she was an accomplished musician and enjoyed lively conversation. So not long into the visit he challenged his hostess to a piano-playing contest. Mrs. Noel rose to the moment. In fine form she began to play, followed by White in a vigorous rendition. To bystanding Whitaker's amazement the contenders pounded out florid passages, each speedier and more bombastic than the last, until the pianists convulsed in laughter and had to call a draw. The peace was sealed, along with a warm and lasting friendship.

A faculty member recalls an incident of that same period that hints of the fine fruits of such a friendship. One day Dr. White was walking around campus appraising its needs with school trustee

chairman Lloyd Bost. As they walked down Main Street in front of Lindsay Hall, White expressed his dismay over the drab, blank wall facing Main Street. "If I ever do anything I am going to fix that wall," he said. Bost broke into muffled laughter. "You are the third president I have heard say those same words," Bost said. But Dr. White, as has been his trademark, was as good as his word. He "fixed" the wall with Noel Hall.

In October 1991 Mrs. Noel's newly pledged gift of \$300,000 was announced by the trustees. The gift, payable over six years, was to pay for the construction of a wing to be added to Lindsay Hall, utilizing, and covering up, that blank wall some considered an eyesore.

Noel Hall, named in memory of Dr. George T. Noel and in honor of Marguerite Warren Noel, his widow, would be beautiful. Dr. White predicted, "This building will become the postcard site of Gardner-Webb."

The *Pilot* of September 21, 1992 reported that the two buildings would be ready for the spring semester of 1993. Lindsay Hall was upgraded to the point that its interior would be so like the new Noel Hall, in design and decoration, that the two would be scarcely distinguishable.

Noel Hall became the home of the newly-established Divinity School. News that the Gardner-Webb Board of Trustees had formally approved the

addition of the School of Divinity was released on August 27, 1992. The decision to begin a school of divinity was reached only after serious prayer. Because of the fundamentalism espoused by the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention, the nature of the national Southern Baptist seminaries was changing rapidly. Traditional Baptist graduates of schools such as Gardner-Webb University often had problems when deciding whether or not to attend seminary and which seminary to attend. In this environment Gardner-Webb University boldly launched out in faith and began its own school of divinity. By trustee action the school was to emphasize traditional Baptist teachings while being open to all who wished to attend.

The first divinity students would enter the new school in Spring 1993. Since its high school days, the school has been educating young people destined for the ministry. In 1971 the school graduated its first students who earned B.A. degrees in Religious Studies. But until the Divinity School was in place, future ministers had to continue formal training elsewhere. Dr. White said, "We feel that God has led us to begin a School of Divinity which will carry on the dynamic tradition of ministerial education at Gardner-Webb at the graduate level."

An immeasurable boost for religious education came with a visitor Dr. White received soon after he assumed the school's presidency. Rev. Buddy Freeman, then pastor of the First Baptist Church at Marshall, NC came to see White about a special venture Freeman and Dr. Thurman Lewis had organized fifteen years earlier in 1971. They called it the Christian Service Organization. Its mission was to provide some help to struggling ministerial students - who, as a lot, tend to be short on funds. Its aid was to go to any student, no matter what race or gender, whose faith in Christ led him or her to a heartfelt call to the ministry. As far as is known, no other church related college or university in the United States has a similar organization.

The Christian Service Organization was short on funds in its early years. During its first fifteen years the CSO struggled and raised an endowment of \$100,000. Freeman came to talk with White about the CSO vision and its possible application at Gardner-Webb. White saw not only the potential for helping Gardner-Webb students but also the enthusiasm and faith Freeman exemplified as well and moved to bring Freeman back to the campus.

White determined to make CSO a priority in fundraising, and in the years since he met Buddy Freeman, the organization has achieved the largest scholarship endowment at the University. Through the leadership of such workers as Mrs. Tyner Ivester, who was CSO secretary from its birth until her death; former campus administrator Rev. Robert Abrams; Rev. Freeman; Rev. Ed Sessoms and donor and fundraiser Herman Best, of Shelby, the CSO endowment by 1997 reached \$1.7 million. In the 1996-97 school year for the first time over 100 Gardner-Webb students were receiving aid.

President White encouraged CSO supporters to fund endowed scholarships, and by 1997 over 100 had been established. The first of these was funded by faculty member Dr. Robert Morgan.

Since its formation hundreds of students have received CSO grants. These alumni now serve in positions of ministry all over the world. For example, the Rev. Michael Remy, a pastor in Haiti, received one of the first CSO grants. Years later his son and daughter, McFarland and Michelle, followed in his footsteps. Dr. Sophia Gomes Steibel of Brazil received CSO support during her student days and returned to join the faculty as a religion and religious education professor.

The Christian Service Organization was a great boon, then, in establishing the School of Divinity at a school which had already started thousands in their preparation for the ministry. "The entrance of this institution into theological education at the graduate level is a natural, maybe inevitable growth process," Dr. White said. "We have been in theological education for decades." He noted further, "Gardner-Webb has earned the respect of Baptists in North Carolina for being a good Christian school. There is a high level of trust for who we are."

Dr. Robert Lamb, a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and long time GWU faculty member, was chosen Dean of the School of Divinity. The degree offered, Master of Divinity, is a three-year basic professional degree, comparable to similar degrees in theological seminaries and divinity schools.

People from various backgrounds have entered the School of Divinity, Dr. Lamb observed; "With the Master of Divinity, you start from scratch. People show up who are engineers, science and English teachers, and just all kinds of backgrounds. Several of the Divinity School students are in their mid-70s.

One man drove to Boiling Springs in a Mercedes to register after selling a couple of vacation homes.”

“In the first class,” said Dr. Lamb, “over twenty-five percent of students already held one or more master’s degrees and one came with a Ph.D. in sociology. Presbyterians, Methodists, Assembly of God affiliates and others came to study alongside the Baptists who make up the majority of students.” About fifty-five students took Divinity School classes in the 1993-94 academic year. The following year there were eighty-four enrolled, and in the fall of 1996, there were 115, with undergraduate degrees from twenty-six colleges and universities; five students were from other countries.

While five students who transferred work graduated earlier, the School of Divinity graduated its first official three-year class in May 1996. Seven students received Master of Divinity degrees and four received a Master of Arts degree in Christian Ministry.

A significant addition to the program of the School of Divinity was the World “A” Mission Resource Center. Dedicated on January 16, 1996, the center is a partnership between the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the GWU School of Divinity. The center was organized to educate about strategic opportunities for missions involvements in areas of the world which are primarily unreached for Christ. About one-fourth of the world’s people have had little or no opportunity to hear the gospel because of barriers such as politics, language or geography. Housed in the Dover Memorial Library, the center is directed by Mrs. Cathy Ollis.

The Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity’s fourth Founder’s Day celebration was held at Boiling Springs Baptist Church in September 1996 with Dr. Frank Stagg, former professor at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, as keynote speaker. In opening remarks President White said that the church and University gained much from each other. White reported that the Divinity School at the time had over 100 students, an outstanding faculty, a growing library, graduates, and a new class of students. President White reported that trustees project the University’s enrollment to add a thousand or more students within a decade. “We must not dream small dreams”, said the president; “rather, we must pray, work and give that this may be so.”

The first staff visit from the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada

(ATS) occurred on September 26, 1995. And while five students, who transferred work, graduated early, the School of Divinity graduated its first official three-year class in May 1996. The School of Divinity achieved Associate Member status with ATS in summer 1996. This was the earliest possible date this could have been achieved.

Kathryn Hamrick, Vice-president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, remarked “During the founding days, there were powerful demonstrations of God’s leadership in the matter, accompanied by confidence in His faithfulness to provide supporters for the school.”

Mrs. Hamrick also shared the observation that people of all persuasions have expressed their support and their enthusiasm for the Divinity School. She reported that Dr. Bill Boatwright, the Baptist State Convention’s Director of Public Relations, had recently said that no matter where he went in North Carolina, Baptists expressed positive support for Gardner-Webb’s Divinity School.

Alfred T. Ayscue, former president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, remarked that Gardner-Webb’s decision to establish a school of divinity was a milestone, not only for the University but also for the Baptists of this state. “It was a courageous decision, a venture of faith that characterizes the spirit of the Gardner-Webb family. It marked a new day for North Carolina Baptists, a day of hope and confidence for the future.”

Gardner-Webb is the second Baptist university and the first in North Carolina to start its own school to train ministers. When the Gardner-Webb School of Divinity opened, only Samford University in Alabama had a divinity school.

Also instituted in 1993 was the Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program, with Dr. Keith Griggs as its first permanent director. Dr. Griggs had been on the faculty of the Department of Business, Broyhill School of Management since 1965. In 1980 he was named Assistant Dean of Continuing Education and Summer School.

The Master’s program in education admitted its first students in 1980 during the presidency of Craven Williams. Now in place are seven graduate programs in Education and Counseling: Elementary Education, Middle Grades Education, English Education, Physical Education, School Administration, School Counseling, and Agency Counseling. Gilmer Blackburn served as Director of the Graduate Program from 1982-1991. In 1989, Dr. Blackburn

said, "Teachers can keep their jobs and attend classes, which are offered one night each week through the school year and two nights each week during the summer...There are hundreds of teachers who are better teachers because of what we've done."

Under Blackburn's leadership the graduate program in education greatly expanded; during Fall Semester 1988 enrollment reached 351 students.

Following Dr. Blackburn, Dr. Darlene Gravett became Director of the Graduate School on May 20, 1991 and was named first Dean of the Graduate School in October 1993. Dr. Gravett came to Gardner-Webb from North Greenville College in the fall of 1989 as professor of English.

By the end of 1991 Gardner-Webb was about to make a name-change for the third time in its history. The school that opened in 1907 as Boiling Springs High School would soon be Gardner-Webb University. The decision to become a university ranks as one of the four most important in the institution's history. The other three were (1) the decision to found the high school in 1905, (2) the decision to transform the high school into a junior college in 1928, and (3) the decision in the 1960s to become a senior college. In transforming the College into the University, the institution (1) recognized the status it had achieved in the higher education community and (2) set the vision for the institution's future. That vision was to become a recognized regional university.

In talking with a reporter for *The Web* in January 1992, President White commented that the potential change comes at a time when many colleges are changing to university status. The president explained that one reason for changing names was the growing number of community colleges and technical schools calling themselves colleges. Dr. White noted that universities are eligible for certain types of aid, especially grants, that are not available to colleges. However, the most significant reason for the name change was the realization that the institution had matured in academic programs, size, complexity, and financial stability.

Gardner-Webb presented to the General Board of the Baptist State Convention the request to move to university status, and the request was approved. It was then presented to the Convention on November 12, 1992 at Winston-Salem. The resulting vote of approval followed an impressive presentation by Dr. White and an excellent video prepared by John Brock, Director of Marketing. Each presentation told parts of the Gardner-Webb story.

Gardner-Webb University became "official" on January 1, 1993. The school, led by John Brock, set about making the necessary changes from "college" to "university" everywhere the word "college" appeared. A *Shelby Star* editorial of January 12, 1993 observed that these laborious changes would be many, including the school's deeds of trust, school logo, even lapel pins. The article also emphasized that moving from college to university was a major change - not only in letterheads and signs but in enhancing the prestige of the school. While there are no specific rules, a university usually has graduate students and a number of schools within the university. Gardner-Webb's Graduate School of Education had begun in 1980 with sixty students, but by 1993 there were three graduate schools.

The internal multiplicity of schools has for some time been in place, and growing. Three graduate schools include the School of Divinity, led by Dean Robert Lamb; the School of Business, led by Dean Jim Crawley and the School of Education and Counseling, led by Dean Darlene Gravett. Undergraduate on-campus schools are the School of Education, led by Dean Dee Hunt; the School of Nursing, led by Dean Shirley Toney, the School of Business, led by Dean Jim Crawley, and the School of Arts and Sciences, the dean of which, at the time of this writing, has not been appointed. Dean of the Extended Campus Program called GOAL is Robert Shackleford.

Another significant sign of Gardner-Webb's maturing as a quality university has been the establishment of Faculty Sabbaticals. The program, started several years ago, affords fully-paid semester leaves for faculty members of particular merit.

Also, student honor societies reflect this "coming of age." In place now at GWU are Alpha Chi, the national academic honor society, with current regional Alpha Chi president Dr. Robert Morgan as advisor; Beta Beta Beta, the national biology society; Sigma Tau Delta, the national English society; Psi Chi, the national society for psychology and Theta Alpha Kappa, the national society for Religion.

That first year as a university was an exciting one at Gardner-Webb. At the first University Convocation on January 19, 1993 Dr. White spoke of his feelings:

As the tenth president and the first to serve in her new status as a university, I feel unreserved pride. Gardner-Webb's past is full of excitement

and progress, but I firmly believe that the best is yet to come. Gardner-Webb is like a rosebud in the process of blooming. While the full beauty is not yet here, there are enough glimpses of future beauty and quality to whet the imagination.

Dr. White's comments remind one of the story that is told of a man who read the sign stating, "The Past is Prologue," on the Archives Building in Washington, D.C. He asked his cab driver what that meant, to which the driver responded, "It means, 'You ain't seen nothing yet'."

Gardner-Webb celebrated its university status with a day of fun and festivities on April 3, 1993. This day called "Webbfest" was well-attended by Gardner-Webb friends and supporters. John Brock, chairman of the University Transition Committee described the day as "showing people who we are, where we are and what we do." Activities included dramatic productions, sports events, an airshow and daytime fireworks. The public was invited to visit residence halls and other buildings including the recently-completed Noel Hall, the Craven Williams Observatory and the International House.

Dr. White reported to the trustees in the summer of 1993 that the recent May graduation was highly successful as the institution's first as a university. The program was special as graduating seniors representing various programs within the student body were featured. Mamadi Corra spoke representing the Noel Program for Handicapped Students. Mr. Corra was the first blind person from Gambia to graduate from college.

In recent years, as the campus underwent a name change, so did one of its buildings. On February 25, 1993 the Poston Center was dedicated in honor of Dr. E. Eugene Poston, the eighth president of Gardner-Webb. Earlier, this building had served as two apartments for faculty and administration. President and Mrs. Elliott had once lived in one of the apartments; after Dr. Elliott's death, his widow continued to live there for several years. Today Poston Center remains the home of Security and Publications.

As a former president was being honored, President White was being recognized. On Thursday, December 24, 1992 Dr. White received an early Christmas present when The *Cleveland Times* announced that the Gardner-Webb president had been named "Times Man of the Year in Cleveland County." George Blanton, Jr., Chairman of the Board of First

National Bank and a member of the school's Board of Trustees said, "I am pleased to learn of this well-deserved honor. It is a well-deserved tribute to his dedication and his outstanding abilities. He is most deserving of this honor. President White has contributed much to our community. He has led Gardner-Webb College's effort to attain university status. Under his guidance, Gardner-Webb's curriculum has been enhanced, and establishing the Divinity School is a crowning triumph for his leadership."

Chris White bonded with the community just as he did with the school, at the very beginning of his service at Gardner-Webb. He joined and became president of the Shelby Rotary Club and the Cleveland County Community Foundation. He joined the First Baptist Church of Shelby and became a deacon. He served as a director of the Piedmont Council of Boy Scouts, the United Way and the YMCA, and of Cleveland Federal Bank, now Centura. He delighted in speaking at churches in Cleveland and neighboring counties, avowing to friends that his goal is to speak in every Baptist church in North Carolina - "a subtle attempt at immortality," one associate noted - "since there are 3,000 North Carolina Baptist churches."

Dr. White and his wife Linda come as a valuable team, hosting campus and community functions, pairing up to beautify campus buildings, where Linda's touch is recognized by friends throughout. They "team" to lead Holy Land study-tours as they began doing while at Elon and have continued at Gardner-Webb, now with the aid of economics professor Dr. Anthony Negbenebor. In 1997 they will have with them the Gardner-Webb University Concert Choir, under the direction of GWU graduate Chris Roberts.

The Whites' two sons Marty and Andrew attended Gardner-Webb and graduated with honors. Marty is a UNC law school graduate now practicing law in the U.S. Navy. His wife, Heather Robertson White, was the top GWU graduate in 1995 and is a student at the UNC School of Medicine. Andrew is a banker with Nationsbank; his wife, Caswell Martin White, is a GWU graduate student.

Working toward such education opportunities for far more children than his own, White has pressed for scholarships, more than tripling the number available when he came to Gardner-Webb. There are now over 300; four of those Chris and Linda White sponsor themselves.



The Lake Hollifield Complex and Hollifield Carillon

The College Becomes A University

Among the beauty spots that have spread across the campus over the past few years is one that makes use of the "boiling spring," the centerpiece of campus and community in the early years. The spring now provides water for the lake of the recently-developed Hollifield Complex. The *Pilot* of November 21, 1991 announced that a Gardner-Webb alumnus had pledged \$1 million over a period of several years to build a lake complex on the west side of the campus. President White told of the plans for this generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Hughy Hollifield: "The donors have in mind an idyllic setting. the total project will include building the lake, bell tower, walking trails, picnic shelter and eventually a perimeter road on the far side of the lake."

The Hollifields wanted their gift to Gardner-Webb to be something of lasting influence, Dr. White added; something that would not be done otherwise, and something that would draw attention to the campus.

On April 21, 1994 at a late-afternoon ceremony the new lake was dedicated and Gardner-Webb honored Hughy and Wyndolyn Hollifield of Winston-Salem for their generous contribution which made Lake Hollifield and the surrounding complex possible. Mr. Hollifield is a 1935 graduate of Gardner-Webb and was presented the Alumnus of the Year Award in 1993. Mrs. Hollifield has served as a member of the University's Board of Trustees.

Their gift is a beautiful scenic addition to the campus, serving as a place to walk, jog, study and meditate. The bell tower and carillon were constructed in the summer of 1996 by the Verdin Company of Cincinnati, OH. The carillon consists of forty-eight bells, the largest weighing over 2,000 pounds. Installed at a cost of \$700,000, these bells are the most complex and expensive musical instrument on campus. They can be played manually or automatically and can be timed in advance to play on any desired schedule. The top of the bell tower replicates the design of the original tower that stood atop the Huggins-Curtis Building in years long gone.

That same spring season, nature turned on campus to show a side far less lovely and benign. At about 5 p.m. on Palm Sunday 1994 a tornado swept over the south side of campus and through the town, wringing huge trees from the ground, shearing roofs from buildings, shattering windows, and tossing cars around the streets like toys. Within a few minutes the storm passed on, leaving the campus littered with ruined trees, broken glass and shreds of roofing.

Because of the time that the tornado struck only a few students were on campus, and they were in the

cafeteria eating supper. Miraculously not one person was injured.

Equally miraculous was the response from the community. The institution that had lived by the motto "People Who Care" found, in its sudden need, caring from every corner. Within an hour the Salvation Army had a relief unit on campus. By the next morning a tractor-trailer from the N.C. Baptist Men's group had arrived. In the coming week they served hundreds of meals to students, townspeople and workers. Methodists and other denominations poured in to help. At one point over forty volunteer chain saws whined and roared together as fallen trees were cut up and moved.

In a few days order was restored and the life of the University was back on track. Gardner-Webb will forever be grateful for the help and caring extended by townspeople and strangers from elsewhere.



The Family of M. Christopher White

Today the only reminder of the tornado is the absence of some of the regal old oaks and other trees. Still, young trees are rich in new growth in their new-found place in the sun. For a school that could survive the myriad financial woes of the early years, coping with a tornado was not about to daunt its spirit.

Like the campus greenery, young programs have their heads up and are thriving. The graduate schools and education and counseling programs are flourishing. The Master of Business Administration offered by the Broyhill School of Management is a two-year course of study structured to prepare students to be knowledgeable and successful managers in today's demanding business environment. There were seventy-five students in the 1993 inaugural semester, a rather cosmopolitan group which graduated in 1995. While many were from North Carolina, two came from abroad. Abdul Asghar from Rawalpinda, Pakistan and Mamadi Kuruba Corra, a blind Gambian student and 1993 GWU graduate received their M.B.A. degrees. Most students from this first class are currently involved in business and have used what they learned at GWU to increase their skills and to enhance the possibility of promotion. Ninety percent of students in the Gardner-Webb M.B.A. program cited location and flexible scheduling as major factors in their enrollment. Nearly half said that their employer paid 90 to 100 percent of the program's cost for them.

The graduate degrees in education and counseling remain popular programs. In the fall of 1995 elementary education was being offered at the Forsyth and Surry centers and all six of the graduate programs in education and counseling were offered on the GWU campus.

Many students have commented on what these graduate programs meant to them. Linda Harrill Rudisill, health educator at Southwest Junior High School in Gastonia, received her master's in Health Education from Gardner-Webb in 1984 and in 1985 she was named N.C. Health Educator of the Year. She has also served as a consultant for Walt Disney and served on a national committee writing health education goals. Mrs. Rudisill says that her experience in the graduate program at GWU marked a significant turning point in her professional life, and that "as a result of the quality instruction provided by the Gardner-Webb faculty, many opportunities have been afforded me."

As over the years young people go forth from the campus well-prepared for life and careers, those who

have shepherded them also pass on. On May 18, 1995 one of Gardner-Webb's most respected and hard-working administrators died suddenly. Jerome Scott, Vice-president and Dean of Student Development, died after collapsing during dinner as he and other school officials were attending a retreat in Watauga County.

Dean Scott was active in the community and had served Gardner-Webb and Cleveland Community College in several capacities. He had served on a number of organizations' boards, including the Cleveland County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Cleveland County Organization for Drug Abuse Prevention and The United Way.

Barbara Merritt, secretary in the Gardner-Webb Department of Education, wrote to the *Shelby Star* commenting on the life and influence of Dean Scott: "Mourners at the funeral were many and diverse. There were people of different races, different economic, educational and societal status and persons of different political persuasions; yet they gathered for a common purpose - to pay tribute to this man who had worked tirelessly in education for Gardner-Webb."

At the funeral on May 22, 1995 family, friends and community met in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center on campus to pay tribute to Jerome Scott. President White in eulogizing Scott mentioned some of his characteristics: "He was high in energy...full of enthusiasm...bristling with ideas...persistent...bright-eyed...fair-minded...driven to succeed...filled with pride in his heritage...a soldier for equality...role model for all...an absolute delight to be with...Jerome Scott was all this...and more."

Scott was one of a team of smart and dedicated associates with whom White forged working alliances, people whom he credits with much of the school's growth and progress. Among those were the Trustee chairmen during his tenure, including Lloyd Bost, Hobart Smith, John McCulloch, Gene Washburn and Tommy Hardin. Others were his senior staff leaders, such as Donnie Clary, the astute Vice-president for Business and Finance; Senior Vice-president and Provost Frank Bonner; fundraiser Ralph (Scoot) Dixon, who led the largest successful campaigns in the school's history; GWU graduate, and popular and resourceful professor Gilmer Blackburn; John Brock, who brought an exceptional multi-faceted background, including film production, to his GWU Vice-presidency; and, more recently, Jerome Scott's successor Bruce Moore.

The school in recent years has lost two long-tenured faculty members by death. Professor Ernest Blankenship of the Department of English, died suddenly on June 23, 1992. In *The Web* (1992, Vol. 3 No. 4), Dr. Jim Taylor wrote a tribute to Ernest Blankenship, his long-time colleague in the department.

He left us just a year short of retirement, dying at home quietly and suddenly in the warm summer night as though to save us trouble. There was no time for farewells to family and friends, nor were they needed from this man who had already by his generous life filled our treasure chests to overflowing. Simple yet more complex than most people realized, Ernest Blankenship had already made his mark when death called.

Professor Charles Andrews of the Department of Foreign Languages died suddenly on October 15, 1994. A memorial service was held on campus. Dr. Gilmer Blackburn, Vice President for Academics, and other members of the community memorialized Dr. Andrews. Dr. Blackburn's remarks included the following:

Above all, I admired the way he refined everything he touched. His character, his gentle spirit were all honed to a state of perfection. He displayed no wasted motion, no professional jealousy, no unhealthy egoism or need for adulation.

Yet in spite of his efforts to remain behind the scenes, others found out what he did with his time and his resources. They rewarded his labor and dedication with love. Twice he was singled out for 'Teacher of the Year' honors. He was elected vice chair of the Faculty by his colleagues. There was no significant honor which he did not receive. Yet I never heard him mention any of his honors in conversation.

A warmly-remembered administrator already on campus when Dr. White arrived was Randy Kilby, who, when he left the school in 1992 was Dean of Admissions. Kilby, now president of Fruitland Baptist Institute in Hendersonville, was named Gardner-Webb's Young Alumni Citizen of the Year in 1995. He may be best remembered for his humorous acts and observations.

He was working at a funeral home over in the mountains when he decided to go to college. While many students applying for financial aid in the 1970s would have felt blessed to have a bicycle, Kilby

arrived in state to make his plea. He drove the hearse. Impressed, President Poston later had the student Kilby drive for him. As an alumnus Kilby would join the admissions staff in 1979 and rose to dean of the department. Often he was asked to speak at various functions. He once told of a college dean who was filling out a form which called for the number of faculty, broken down by sex. The dean responded, "None of whom I am aware but some have trouble with alcohol."

Soon after Kilby was made Director of Admissions, the president pointed out that the number of students enrolled was not as high as expected. Kilby responded that he was like his uncle who was once accused of public drunkenness and setting a hotel on fire. His uncle had pleaded guilty to other charges but innocent of setting the hotel on fire - because the bed was already on fire when he got in it. This tradition of humor emanating from the admissions arena has been amply continued with Kilby's successors Ray Hardee, Director of Admissions and Buddy Freeman, Dean of Admissions and Financial Planning.

One of Dr. White's major goals when he came to Gardner-Webb was to rebuild an athletic program that had been competitively excellent before budget cutbacks during the early 1980s. The intercollegiate program had suffered loss of scholarship aid and coaching staff, and the overall program was suffering. But there were other pressing needs to be met as the school's financial picture brightened; return to former glory would take several years.

By the 1996-97 school year new sports had been added, including wrestling, men and women's soccer and men and women's cross-country; soccer fields were in use and the football stadium upgraded. All sports were again being coached by qualified coaches, and all had scholarship funding at the conference maximum, for the first time in school history. Endowed athletic scholarships had increased from three to eighteen; the Abernethy Bulldog Suite and the Athletic Hall of Fame were in place.

The school had seen many of its athletes make All-American and two, Gabe Wilkins and Terry Guess, join the National Football League as professionals. Plus, campus players were making excellent academic records. In 1996 two student athletes, soccer team member Edwin Ogduba and volleyball player Heather Robertson White, shared top class honors with 4.00 grade-point averages. Both also won Most Outstanding Student Awards at graduation.

Gardner-Webb alumnus and head football coach Woody Fish proved himself the "winningest coach" when his team won the South Atlantic Conference Championship in 1992, after an 11-2 season. They had won the championship before, in 1987. By winning the 1992 SAC conference the team made the NAIA national playoffs; the Runnin' Bulldogs won the quarter-final and semi-final games and were honored to host the national championship game, against the University of Central Ohio, at Spangler Stadium. Excitement was high on campus and in the community. Forecasters called the Dogs the big underdogs. But Coach Fish's team played a magnificent game; the Dogs took an early lead, and when Ohio's star quarterback was injured, for a little while it looked like victory city. But then, enter Dr. Gene Washburn, disciple of both Hippocrates and Christian charity. Dr. Washburn gave the injured quarterback first-aid, and sent him back into action. For which the otherwise-loyal Dog fan will always feel guilt-twinges. In a dramatic finish, that mended enemy power-house was able to lead his Ohio team to a squeaker of a victory. "And all I would have had to do," laments Dr. Washburn, "was to send him to the hospital for an X-ray, and he would not have had time to get back. And win...."

Here again, the GWU motto, "People Who Care," rings true.

Jim Wiles, head basketball coach at GWU since 1978, was named NAIA District 26 Coach of the Year in 1988. The basketball team finished that year in first place, with a 22-10 record and a Number-1 seed in the district playoffs. This was the sixth time

Wiles had led the team to the playoffs. He left Gardner-Webb in 1990, with a record of 228-143.

During Wiles's coaching years at Gardner-Webb, five players were named to NAIA All American teams, including Eddie Wilkins, New York Knicks center.

On April 4, 1990, Jim Johnson, head coach at Spartanburg Methodist Junior College was named Head Basketball Coach succeeding Jim Wiles. Coach Johnson compiled a 190-132 record at Spartanburg Methodist, winning five conference championships and the "Coach of the Year" title four times. He saw 83 percent of his players graduate and 46 of his 50 players go on to play basketball at four-year colleges.

Jim Johnson coached the GWU basketball team from 1991 to 1995. He had a 15-14 record his first year. The next season his team won the South Atlantic Conference regular season championship. The team went to the NAIA playoffs, and Jim

Johnson was named the SAC Coach of the Year. Following that year his teams fell just below 500 each year with a five-year win-loss record of 69-70.

The *Shelby Star* of March 2, 1995 announced that Jim Johnson had resigned as head basketball coach. He was to remain with Gardner-Webb as a full-time member of the Department of Mathematics faculty.

The open coaching slot at Gardner-Webb drew many applications from good basketball coaches. On July 27, 1995, Rick Scruggs was named Head Basketball Coach at Gardner-Webb. Coach Scruggs came to GWU after a year at Milligan College in Johnson City, TN, where he led the school to a 24-12 record and the school's first-ever NAIA National Tournament appearance.

In nine seasons Scruggs had amassed a 178-112 record at four different schools. He had previously coached at Pikeville (Kentucky) College, Belmont Abbey College and North Greenville College. None of his teams has ever suffered a losing season.

Twice Scruggs has led teams to national tournaments, the first time at North Greenville when his team achieved a school-record 30 wins, finishing 30-4 and advancing to the NJCAA national tournament. His second tourney appearance, with Milligan, was highlighted by a high-scoring offense that pumped out 93.7 points per game.

Ozzie McFarland has played a significant role in Gardner-Webb athletics. He played baseball while a GWU student. In 1983 he was named baseball coach. During the 1985 season he led the baseball Bulldogs to their first District 26 playoff berth in nine years. His rise through the ranks culminated with his being named Athletic Director in 1990. Today, Ozzie McFarland heads an athletic program comprised of sixteen sports competing at the intercollegiate level.

Also, at the beginning of the Fall 1995 semester, Pam Scruggs was promoted to the position of Assistant to the Director of Athletics. She later became the Assistant Director of Athletics, the first female to hold this position.

In 1989 veteran baseball coach Clyde Miller accepted the job of Head Baseball Coach and Assistant Athletic Director at Gardner-Webb. Miller came to the University from Newberry College. He had served nineteen seasons as a head coach on the collegiate level. Overall he had compiled a 509-350 collegiate record with stints at Indian River Junior College, Brewton-Parker Junior College and Newberry College. During his career,

Miller garnered numerous honors, including six "Coach of the Year" awards.

While at Gardner-Webb, Coach Miller has been recognized nationally. In December 1993 he was the winner of the prestigious Service Award by the U.S.A. Baseball Committee. In 1993 he was named by the U.S. Baseball Federation to be Commissioner of the Junior Olympic Baseball Super Series, held in Beaumont, TX.

One of the largest events in Cleveland County of any type was held in Boiling Springs on June 1, 1996. It was announced in February 1996 that a women's olympic cycling trials event sponsored by Gardner-Webb University and the town of Boiling Springs would be held in Boiling Springs.

A February 28, 1996 *Shelby Star* article stated: "This is big time Cleveland County. When different people heard the news that Gardner-Webb University and

Boiling Springs were to host the U.S. Olympic Trials event in cycling, the reaction was the same. Jaws dropped open, and a sense of disbelief crept into the eyes of the listener."

Boiling Springs mayor Max Hamrick stated in February, "Since first learning about this, I've been excited and that excitement's going to continue to grow. When you tell people about this, their faces light up. I'm honored and proud we'll be a part of it."

From February until June 1, 1996 townspeople, university personnel, and others connected with the olympic event worked feverishly, enthusiastically, and excitedly preparing for the big race. Some roads in the town were repaired; debris was removed from road sides; a fifteen-foot Runnin' Bulldog logo was painted on Main Street; and a painting of Olympic cyclists was done on the front of C. J. Hamrick's old store building.



Olympic Women's Cycling Race

On race day, thousands of people enjoyed the race. Other activities were available at Olympic Village with its concession stands and rides. Many citizens of Boiling Springs had parties in their yards. For retired teacher Chick Wallace and his wife Becky, the press reported, "It was a chance to have an early Independence Day celebration."

The day following the race, the *Shelby Star* editorialized:

Most Americans won't have the chance to attend the elite Olympic games in Atlanta this summer. Thanks to Gardner-Webb, the town of Boiling Springs and a variety of corporate sponsors, a taste of the Olympic games was held at our doorstep.

In a letter to the editor of the *Shelby Star*, Gardner-Webb President Chris White and Edwin C. Holbrook, chairman of the Olympic Trials Committee, thanked and congratulated the town of Boiling Springs, its citizens, and the entire community for creating the electric atmosphere that is so generally associated with the Olympics. The letter explained that all one had to do to see the feelings of the community was to drive around town and see townspeople painting buildings, setting out flowers and mulching flower beds, mowing lawns, clearing vacant fields, and hanging banners and flags.

Several weeks later, Gardner-Webb alumnus, Sidney Blake Wilkey, class of 1985, was selected as an olympic torch bearer. Wilkey carried the flame in its journey through western North Carolina. The Sidney Wilkey story is a story of triumph in spite of obstacles. He contracted cerebral palsy early in life. Despite this crippling disease which left him a paraplegic, he graduated from Gardner-Webb; has worked as an accountant; and works as a telecommunicator for Cleveland County. He is married and has one child.

In summer 1996 the University received notification of full reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Major leadership in this effort was provided by Dr. Sue Camp, business

faculty member and alumnus. The action was significant in that it recognized Gardner-Webb's status as a university and gave approval to the new graduate schools in divinity and business.

The 1990s have been years of the maturing of the University's academic programs in terms of recognized quality. Known for years for an outstanding and dedicated faculty, the academic programs now boast regional and national accreditation in many areas. Graduates are finding success in passing national examinations such as the CPA (accounting), NTE (teaching) and RN (nursing). Admittance to the graduate school of choice is commonplace for alumni. Faculty scholarly activity, present throughout school history, is at an all time high.

Further indication of the University's maturing as an academic community is the designation of 1996-97 as the "Year of the Scholar." The brainchild of Dr. Leslie Brown, biology professor, the concept has been adopted by faculty and students and includes activities such as a film series, a coffeehouse, guest academic speakers, a new literary journal for student articles, and a "One Hundred Greatest Books" adoption.

On December 24, 1996 the University community lost one of its most important advocates. Lloyd C. Bost, died after having fought illness for several years. A trustee for over thirty years, holder of every Board office (including many as Chairman), confidant of three presidents, leader of capital campaigns, his devotion to his adopted school was without peer. He helped the small junior college dream and grow. It became a senior college, then a dynamic regional university during his tenure. In 1971, the school surprised him with the first honorary doctorate ever given. Dr. White said in his eulogy, "If there is such a designation as 'Mr. Gardner-Webb' Lloyd Bost could lay claim to it." A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, Mr. Bost chose to make Gardner-Webb his love because of its Baptist affiliation and traditional Christian values. But most of all, he felt that at Gardner-Webb he could make a difference. And he did.

Reflections



The 90th Anniversary Seal

In these pages, we have looked back over much of a century, and the birth and growth of a school. During these ninety years, the social and cultural changes in American society and at Gardner-Webb have been tremendous. A student from 1907 would not recognize the campus today. The one building in 1907, Huggins-Curtis, passed on long ago. The Charles I. Dover Campus Center stands where Huggins-Curtis once stood. Students now jam the campus parking lots with cars; no more waiting wagons, with mules tied to trees. Miss Etta Curtis would be surprised by the greater freedom of young ladies today. It has been many years since she lined up and marched the young ladies to the C.J. Hamrick Store in Boiling Springs and since young gentlemen were digging up stumps as punishment for talking to young ladies on campus.

A contracted business now cooks and cleans up; while students might still work their way through college, none do so by chopping wood or keeping lamps clean and filled, and the trade of livermush and eggs for a liberal education is rare today, indeed.

The campus of today consists of thirty-five major buildings; the most recent, Washburn Hall, where once Drs. Gene and Wyan Washburn and their nurse sister Rae treated patients, was dedicated in June 1996 in honor of Dr. Gene Washburn and his wife Billie. Gov. Jim Hunt spoke at the ceremony, challenging all to follow the Washburns' lead: "Be an example of Christian caring and service."

As of fall 1996, there were over one hundred faculty members and total enrollment counting graduate and off-campus students was 2,762. The school is now a growing and progressive university with eight distinct graduate degree programs, and twelve GOAL satellite centers.

The largest-ever fundraising campaign, a quest for \$20 million called "Dreaming, Daring, Doing" has recently been successfully completed, in only two years of its planned five-year campaign, with Fields

Young III as national campaign leader and Ralph (Scoot) Dixon pressing the overall effort. While campus improvements such as Hollifield Lake and Carillon and the renovation of Hamrick Hall are obvious results of the campaign, the University's endowment is increasing rapidly and the students will soon enjoy state-of-the-art computer technology.

In addition, the rapid enrollment growth has caused a shortage of space. In short, the University now has insufficient residential housing for students, instructional space and faculty and staff office space. In May 1996 the Board of Trustees unanimously affirmed the intent for the University to continue to grow. As a follow-up to this, in the fall of 1996 trustees approved the most ambitious building project on record, with construction to begin in the spring of 1997 on a \$4.2 million renovation of Hamrick Hall to house the School of Business, with funds given by the Dover Foundation and the Broyhill Foundation, among others. A new \$4.3 million facility will be the student apartment complex, with over 143 beds and a state-of-the-art design for the best student apartments in the region. Another \$2 million will be spent on expanding computer accessibility, affording every student, teacher and staffer on campus access to the Internet in their rooms or office.

Gardner-Webb is enjoying its strongest financial status ever, with an endowment that exceeds \$12 million. Such a blessing has come from the budgets of struggling young families, from vast corporations such as BellSouth and tiny country churches, from pensioners with flat pockets and Bill Gates of Microsoft, from generous foundations all over the country and from Cleveland County businesses and thousands of just ordinary folk who share a reverence for learning and for the teachings of Christianity.

Many persons, including alumni, have made significant statements about Gardner-Webb. Each year Gardner-Webb awards the most coveted

recognition a college or university can bestow upon one of its graduates - the Alumnus of the Year Award. Those who have received this award over the years are listed in the appendix. Alumni who have received this recognition have accepted it gratefully; Dr. Henry Smith received the award in 1989 and later provided the school with some thoughts and reflections that were published in the Winter 1989 edition of *The Web*. Dr. Smith was a 1953 graduate and later served Gardner-Webb as Assistant to the President in Charge of Fundraising, Public Relations and Administrative Affairs. Some of his thoughts:

Gardner-Webb prepared me to reap and sow. To dream dreams, to be of service of my fellow men. Most of all Gardner-Webb taught me to be ever mindful that education makes people easy to lead but difficult to drive, for the training which makes men and women happy in themselves also makes them more useful to others.

Hobart Smith, chairman of the trustees, in welcoming those in attendance at the May 13, 1995 graduation, said, "These are good times for Gardner-Webb University; new programs, enhanced academic quality, new construction on campus, strong enrollment and an outstanding future."

Chairman Smith then assured that Gardner-Webb as it has grown and matured has not forgotten the

values of the founders in 1905. "We still take our Christian heritage seriously," he said. "Basic values of morality, kindness and integrity still count."

Dr. Chris White, while in his eleventh year as president of Gardner-Webb University during its ninetieth birthday, shared a feeling:

There has always been something special going on here. It started with a vision for a Christian High School. This grew into dreaming of a Junior College, a four-year Senior College, Graduate School, Divinity School, University and so on. At each step of the way, with divine assurance our leaders proved to be daring, stepping out in faith to new opportunities God sent our way. And most of all, the leaders and friends of Gardner-Webb have always been diligent in doing whatever it took to meet each challenge. Our story has always been and continues to be a glorious one of Dreaming, Daring, Doing. He added, "in recent years our goal has been to become a regional university. But that is not a goal anymore. We've made it. We're there!"



Faculty and Administrative Staff

Administrative Officers and Staff

President - M. Christopher White (Professor of Religion)

Assistant to the President - Donald W. Durham (Instructor in Religion)

University Historian - M. Lansford Jolley

Provost

Provost and Senior Vice President - A. Frank Bonner (Professor of English)

Director of Freshman and Senior Programs - Brenda C. Moore (Instructor)

Academic Affairs

Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs - Gilmer W. Blackburn (Professor of History)

Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs - Barry E. Hambright (Professor of History and Political Science)

Honors Program Coordinator - Thomas H. Jones (Professor of Biology)

Director of the Writing Center - Gayle B. Price (Professor of English)

College of Extended Professional Studies

Dean of the College of Extended Professional Studies - Robert S. Shackelford (Associate Professor of Sociology)

Director of GOAL Business Programs - F. Keith Griggs (Professor of Business Administration and Management Information Systems)

GOAL Business Majors Advisor - Lillian W. Githae

GOAL Business Majors Advisor - Teresa M. Hermanson

Director of Human Services Program - T. Eugene Carpenter (Associate Professor of Human Services)

Business Program Coordinator - Emily W. Brown (Instructor in Business Administration)

Graduate School of Education

Dean of Graduate Studies - Darlene J. Gravett (Professor of English)

Business School

Dean of Business School - James E. Crawley (Professor of Business (Administration))

Director of the MBA Program - W. Russell Hardin (Associate Professor of Accounting)

School of Divinity

Dean of the School of Divinity - Robert L. Lamb (Professor of Church Administration and Spirituality)

Assistant to the Dean - Mary Alice Seals (Associate Professor of Church Music)

Director of World A Mission Resource Center - Cathy Ollis

School of Education

Dean of the School of Education - Delores M. Hunt (Professor of Health Education and Physical Education)

School of Nursing

Dean of the School of Nursing - Shirley P. Toney (Professor of Nursing)

Academic Advising and Registration

Dean of Advising - Melvin R. Lutz, Jr. (Associate Professor of Religion and Greek)

Director of Learning Assistance Program - Matthew D. Theado (Assistant Professor of English)

Registrar - Stephen E. Sain (Instructor in History)

Associate Registrar - Lou Ann Poston Scates

Transcript Evaluation Officer - Joyce Crumpton

Library

Head Librarian - Valerie M. Parry (Assistant Professor)

Technical Services Librarian - Janet Snowhill (Instructor)

Reference Librarian - Barbara L. Cooke (Instructor)

Public Services Librarian - Sandra L. Williams (Instructor)

Catalog Librarian - Nick Gao

Religious Programs Librarian - Robert T. Parsons, Jr.
(Associate Professor of Religion)
Reference Librarian, Statesville Campus - Sandra C.
Rogers (Instructor)

Noel Program for Disabled Students

Director of the Noel Program for Disabled Students -
Sharon D. Jennings (Assistant Professor)
Assistant Director of the Hearing Impaired Program -
Cheryl K. Potter
Resource Specialist - Holly M. Nelson
Interpreter - Mary Ruth Dixon
Interpreter - Cindy Rochester
Interpreter - M. Elizabeth Ledbetter

Student Development

Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs - G. Bruce
Moore (Assistant Professor of Religion)

Residence Life

Acting Director of Residence Life - Julie M. Hux
Area Directors: I. Arvle Dunn
Janet Atkins
Dale Byrd

Counseling

Director of Counseling - Jimmy D. Whitlow
(Professor of Psychology)
Director of Community Services - Harvey B.
Hamrick, Jr.
Counselor - Abbigail S. Kalaf

Career Planning

Coordinator of Career Services - Hope Q. Toney

Campus Ministry

Minister to the University - Tracy C. Jessup
(Instructor in Religion)

Student Activities and Intramurals

Director of Student Activities and Intramurals -
Audrey M. Sloan

Safety and Security

Director of Safety and Security - Tracy O. Curry
Assistant Director of Safety and Security - Larry J. Thomas

Athletics

Vice President for Athletics and Special Events -
Eddie Holbrook
Director of Athletics - F. Osborne McFarland
(Assistant Professor of Health Education and
Physical Education)
Assistant Director of Athletics - Pamela C. Scruggs
Assistant Director of Athletics and Baseball Coach -
W. Clyde Miller (Assistant Professor of Health
Education and Physical Education)
Head Football Coach - H. Woodrow Fish, Jr. -
(Assistant Professor of Health Education and
Physical Education)
Assistant Football Coach - Brian L. Bohannon
Assistant Football Coach - M. Todd Knight -
(Instructor in Health Education and Physical
Education)
Assistant Football Coach - Michael M. Ledford
Assistant Football Coach - J. Allan Gerber
Men's Head Basketball Coach - Rick Scruggs
(Assistant Professor of Health Education and
Physical Education)
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach - D. Chad Dollar
Assistant Men's Basketball Coach - Phillip R. Hanson
Director of Athletic Training - Kevin P. Jones
(Assistant Professor of Health Education and
Physical Education)
Volleyball Coach - Angell R. Kirkpatrick (Instructor
in Health Education and Physical Education)
Women's Basketball Coach - A. Eddie McCurley
Assistant Women's Basketball Coach - Dana T.
Puckett (Instructor in Health Education and
Physical Education)
Assistant Women's Basketball Coach - Amy Jenkins
Women's Softball Coach - Ellen R. McGinnis
Wrestling and Cross Country Coach - Richard M.
Wince (Instructor in Health Education and
Physical Education)
Men's Soccer Coach and Director of Soccer Services -
R. Anthony Setzer (Instructor in Health Education
and Physical Education)
Women's Soccer Coach - Lennox Charles
Director of Tennis Programs - Andrew Smith
Assistant Baseball Coach - Douglas Jones

Sports Information

Director of Sports Information - P. Mark Wilson

Bulldog Club

Executive Director - F. Osborne McFarland -
(Assistant Professor of Health Education and
Physical Education)

Business Affairs

Vice President for Business and Finance - Donnie O.
Clary
Assistant Vice President for Business & Finance -
Mike W. Hardin
Comptroller - Roberta C. Parris
Assistant Vice President for Business and Data
Processing Manager - Danny R. Davis
Assistant Vice President for Institutional Support -
Wayne E. Johnson -(Instructor)
Data Services Coordinator - Eric J. Brewton
Systems Analyst/Programmer - Garry D. McSwain
Systems Support Technician - Matthew Davis
Business Office Manager - Shirley B. Pyron
Personnel Manager - Linda Smith
Staff Accountant - Carolyn McSwain
Staff Accountant - Anne Dellinger
Staff Accountant - Helen Wilson
Special Funds Accountant - Tamara Curtis
Campus Shop Manager - Michael Schau
Director of Physical Plant - Michael McCreight
Director of Housekeeping - Kim Karr
Housekeeping Supervisor - Bill Hileman
Maintenance Supervisor - Jimmy T. Martin
Grounds Supervisor - Leif Hamrick
Director of Food Services - John W. Simpson
Assistant Director of Food Services - Allen Cassidy

University Relations

Vice President for University Relations - Drew L. Van
Horn

Development

Director of Foundations and Corporate Relations -
Shannon L. Kennedy
Director of Development Information Systems -
Charles G. Ledford
Director of Alumni Relations - Mickey B. Sharpe
Director of Development for Religious Studies - W.
Bruce Rabon
Director of Annual Fund - Uriel L. Patterson, III
Director of Planned Giving - Donald W. Durham -
(Instructor in Religion)

Public Relations

Director of Public Relations and Communications -
Matthew C. Webber
Communications Officer for the School of Divinity -
Michelle P. Norman
Public Relations Assistant - Rhonda Benfield

Publications

Director of Publications - Wilson W. Brooks
Publications Assistant - Amy V. Camper

Radio Station

Manager of WGWG - M. Allen Setzer

Marketing Affairs

Vice President of Marketing, Director of the Broyhill
Academy - John O. Brock (Visiting Professor of
Communication Studies)

Undergraduate Admissions

Dean of Admissions (Campus, Undergraduate) -
Charles W. Freeman
Director of Admissions - Ray M. Hardee
Assistant Director of Admissions - Carolyn B.
McKinney
Office Manager - Antionne L. Wesson
Admissions Counselor - Heidi Gardner
Admissions Counselor - Jerel Olson
Admissions Counselor - Brant I. Reeves
Admissions Counselor - Douglas Jones
Admissions Counselor - Michelle L. Walters

GOAL Admissions

Director of Admissions - Charles A. McCuen, Jr.
Assistant Director of Admissions - W. Jeffrey Renn

School of Divinity Admissions

Director of Admissions - Stephen Z. Hearne
(Assistant Professor of Religion)

Graduate School of Business Administration

Director of Admissions - Melissa L. Swofford

Financial Planning

Director of Financial Planning - Michael Roebuck
 Associate Director of Financial Planning - Cynthia C. Wallace
 Financial Planning Counselor - Lynn B. Thomas
 Data Processing Manager for Admissions/Financial Planning - Beth M. Kirkland

Faculty Academic Administration

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences -
 Chair, English - Joyce C. Brown
 Chair, Religious Studies and Philosophy - Alice R. Cullinan
 Chair, Department of Fine Arts - Terry L. Fern
 Chair, Foreign Languages and Literature - Robert E. Morgan
 Chair, Department of Communication Studies - Ted W. Vaughan
 Chair, Department of Mathematical Sciences - William M. Hoover
 Chair, Department of Natural Sciences - Thomas H. Jones
 Chair, Department of Social Sciences - Anthony F. Eastman
 Dean, School of Business - James E. Crawley
 Chair, Broyhill Undergraduate Department - Arlen K. Honts
 Director, MBA Program - W. Russell Hardin
 Dean, School of Education - Delores M. Hunt
 Chair, Department of Education - Ben B. Carson
 Chair, Department of Health Education and Physical Education - Jeffrey L. Tubbs
 Chair, Department of Psychology - Bonnie M. Wright
 Dean, School of Nursing - Shirley P. Toney
 Chair, ADN - Shirley P. Toney
 Chair, Campus BSN - Marcia M. Miller
 Chair, Davis BSN - Wanda C. Stutts

Full-time Teaching Faculty Professors

Adams, Bobby E. - Professor of Ethics, School of Divinity
 Banner, Doris V. - Professor of Education
 Billings, A. Carolyn - Professor of Music
 Bottoms, I. Glenn - Professor of Economics and Management Information Systems

Brown, Frieda F. - Professor of Psychology
 Brown, Joyce C. - Professor of English
 Brown, Leslie M. - Professor of Biology
 Burkett, Barbara N. - Professor of Biology
 Camp, Sue C. - Professor of Business Administration
 Carlton, Janie M. - Professor of Nursing
 Carson, Benjamin B. - Professor of Education
 Co, Henry C. - Professor of Business Administration
 Cook, Donald E. - Professor of New Testament Interpretation, School of Divinity
 Crawley, James E. - Professor of Business Administration
 Cullinan, Alice R. - Professor of Religious Education and Religion
 Dalton, Steve F. - Professor of Education
 Eastman, Anthony F. - Professor of History
 Fern, Terry L. - Professor of Music
 Gaddis, Roger G. - Professor of Psychology
 Gravett, Darlene J. - Professor of English
 Griggs, F. Keith - Professor of Business Administration and Management Information Systems
 Hambright, Barry E. - Professor of History and Political Science
 Hoover, William M. - Professor of Mathematics
 Hunt, Delores M. - Professor of Health Education and Physical Education
 Jones, Thomas H. - Professor of Biology
 Keown, Gerald L. - Professor of Old Testament Interpretation School of Divinity
 Lamb, Robert L. - Professor of Religious Education and Religion
 Morgan, Robert E. - Professor of French and Mathematics
 Parrish, C. Sherman - Professor of Chemistry
 Partain, Jack G. - Professor of Religion
 Partin, Patricia W. - Professor of Psychology and Education
 Perrin, Phil D. - Professor of Music
 Plate, Stephen W. - Professor of Music
 Price, Gayle B. - Professor of English
 Stacy, R. Wayne - Professor of Religion
 Strokhanov, Alexandre A. - Professor of History
 Summers, C. Oland - Professor of Music
 Taylor, Marvin E. - Professor of Spanish
 Toney, Shirley P. - Professor of Nursing
 Tubbs, Jeffrey L. - Professor of Health Education and Physical Education

Vaughan, Ted W. - Professor of Communications

Associate Professors

Adams, Sheryl D. - Associate Professor of Theology,
School of Divinity
Bass, Robert J. - Associate Professor of Mathematics
Carpenter, Wallace R. - Associate Professor of
Management Information Systems
Chandler, Gary L. - Associate Professor of Health
Education and Physical Education
Ellington, Donna S. - Associate Professor of History
Gregg, D. Larry - Associate Professor of Religion
Hardin, W. Russell - Associate Professor of
Accounting
Henderson, Anne E. - Associate Professor of Political
Science
Miller, Marcia M. - Associate Professor of Nursing
Munoz, Robert D. - Associate Professor of Sociology
Negbenebor, Anthony I. Associate Professor of
Economics
Pace, Ruth E. - Associate Professor of Education
Seals, Mary Alice - Associate Professor of Church
Music, School of Divinity
Whitfield, J. Matt - Associate Professor of Music
Wright, Bonnie M. - Associate Professor of
Psychology
Ziegler, Mavis F. - Associate Professor of Health
Education and Physical Education

Assistant Professors

Bell, Susan C. - Assistant Professor of Art
Binfield, Kevin S. - Assistant Professor of English
Cagle, Keith M. - Assistant Professor of Sign
Language Studies
Caldwell, Tracy T. - Assistant Professor of Nursing
Carscaddon, David M. - Assistant Professor of
Psychology
W. Keith Cassidy - Assistant Professor of
Communication Studies
Cody, Deborah W. - Assistant Professor of Nursing
Costello, Victor J. - Assistant Professor of
Communication Studies
Cox, Tamara A. - Assistant Professor of French
English, Thomas R. III - Assistant Professor of Physics
and Astronomy
Griggs, Nell S. - Assistant Professor of Health
Education and Physical Education
Hamrick, Johnnie C. - Assistant Professor of

Education

Harrelson, Patricia B. - Assistant Professor of Music
Hart, Libby W. - Assistant Professor of Math
Hartman, James D., Jr. - Assistant Professor of
Management
Hobbs, June H. - Assistant Professor of English
Hodge, Mary Lou H. - Assistant Professor of Nursing
Honts, Arlen K. - Assistant Professor of Business
Johnson, James C. - Assistant Professor of
Mathematics
Keeter, Lynn C. - Assistant Professor of English
King, Sandra S. - Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Land, Janet S. - Assistant Professor of English
McKinney, Lucenda M. - Assistant Professor of
Education
Meilinger, Dolly S. - Assistant Professor of Nursing
Peck, Jeffrey W. - Assistant Professor of Education
Selph, Barbara S. - Assistant Professor of Sign
Language
Stathakis, Paula M. - Assistant Professor of History
Steibel, Sophia G. - Assistant Professor of Religious
Education and Religion
Stutts, Wanda C. - Assistant Professor of Nursing
Theado, Matthew D. - Assistant Professor of English
Wright, Marcus W. - Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Yelton, David K. - Assistant Professor of History

Instructors

Barreto, Raquel - Instructor in Spanish
Beck-Little, Rebecca J. - Instructor in Nursing
Bivens, Marjorie E. - Instructor in Nursing
Cannon, Sherilyn M. - Instructor in Nursing
Godfrey, Earl H., Jr. - Instructor in Business
Administration
Hoyle, Tammy C. - Instructor in Math
Johnson, Linda W. - Instructor in Nursing
Manahan, Susan H. - Instructor in Microbiology
Park, Sang B. - Instructor in Music
Terrell, Brenda C. - Instructor in Mathematics

Gardner-Webb University

Honorary Degrees Awarded

Date	Recipient.....	Degree
May 16, 1971	Lloyd Cleveland Bost	Doctor of Humanities
September 28, 1971	John R. Cash	Doctor of Humanities
May 14, 1972	John Labon Fraley	Doctor of Humanities
	Vance Houston Havner	Doctor of Divinity
	Royce Patrick Spangler.....	Doctor of Humanities
	Norman Adrian Wiggins.....	Doctor of Laws
May 13, 1973	Zenon Clayton Raymond Hansen	Doctor of Humanities
	James Lineberry Jenkins	Doctor of Divinity (Posthumously)
May 12, 1974	Wofford Benjamin Camp	Doctor of Humanities
	James Orville Terrell	Doctor of Humanities
	Charles Quitman Carter	Doctor of Divinity
December 14, 1974	Gene Lee Watterson	Doctor of Divinity
May 16, 1976	Mae Cline Stroup.....	Doctor of Humanities
	Thomas Robert Mullinax.....	Doctor of Divinity
August 26, 1976	John Emmett Martin, Jr.	Doctor of Science
	Burrell Ellis Morris	Doctor of Divinity
	Ernest Carl Upchurch	Doctor of Divinity
May 15, 1977	Charles I. Dover	Doctor of Humane Letters
	Cecil L. Gilliatt.....	Doctor of Humane Letters
May 20, 1978	Jerry R. Potter	Doctor of Divinity
	Hargrove Bowles, Jr.	Doctor of Humanities
May 19, 1979	C. Lorance Henderson	Doctor of Humanities
May 10, 1980	John King	Doctor of Humanities
August 9, 1980	Forrest C. Feezor	Doctor of Divinity
May 14, 1983	Thomas McFarland Linnens.....	Doctor of Divinity
August 6, 1983	Alex Booth.....	Doctor of Divinity
May 11, 1985	Linda M. Combs.....	Doctor of Humanities
August 29, 1985	Sara Ann Hobbs	Doctor of Divinity
May 10, 1986	Hobart C. Smith	Doctor of Humanities
September 13, 1986	Earl Scruggs	Doctor of Humanities
May 16, 1987	John E. Roberts	Doctor of Humanities
August 6, 1988	Marguerite W. Noel	Doctor of Humanities

Appendix

May 5, 1990	W. Wyan WashburnDoctor of Humanities
May 11, 1991	Edwin S. CoatesDoctor of Humanities
	Noriaki OkajimaDoctor of Business Administration
May 9, 1992	Fay Webb GardnerDoctor of Humanities
	O. Max GardnerDoctor of Humanities
(both Posthumously)
May 14, 1994	Bob D. Shepherd.....Doctor of Divinity
May 14, 1994	Myung Ja Kim LeeDoctor of Education
August 6, 1994	H. Gordon WeekleyDoctor of Humanities
May 13, 1995	David GomesDoctor of Divinity
May 10, 1997	George Blanton, Jr.Doctor of Humanities
	M. Lansford JolleyDoctor of Humanities
	H. Fields Young, IIIDoctor of Humanities

Faculty Emeriti

IN HONOR

Garland H. Allen, Religion and History
 Deck Wallace Andrews, Business
 Robert R. Blackburn - Health Education and Physical
 Education
 Pervy Augustus (P.A.) Cline, Jr., Ancient Languages and
 Literature
 Barbara Jenson Cribb, Education
 George R. Cribb, Music
 Robert L. Decker, Music
 Dorothy Washburn Edwards, Registrar Emerita
 Nettie Rayle Gidney, Voice
 Marion Lansford Jolley, Social Sciences
 Paul W. Jolley, Mathematics
 D. Doris Jones, Sociology
 Betty H. Logan, Business

Abbie Miller Mitchell, Music
 M. Vann Murrell, Religion
 F. Thirlen Osborne, English
 Launita (Lonnie) Eye Proctor, Health and Physical
 Education

IN MEMORIAM

Charles S. Andrews, Foreign Languages
 Bettye McClure Carpenter, Psychology
 Hubert C. Dixon, Mathematics
 James P. Henson, Psychology
 Martin Arthur (M.A.) Moseley, Jr., Chemistry
 Paul John Stacy, Biology
 James Orville Terrell, Dean Emeritus

Gallery Of Distinguished Graduates

The University recognizes alumni who have excelled in their professions by designating them as Distinguished Graduates. Photographs and biographies are displayed in the main foyer of the Dover Campus Center. Alumni who have been recognized and their graduation dates are listed below:

John Ellis Biggers1956
 James Thomas Bowen1963
 R. Bruce Bowers1968
 Dina Anderson Braddy1977
 Neils Willard Brooks1978
 Richard William Brunson ..1979
 Daphene Ledford Cantrell 1950
 James Robert Cline, Jr.1976
 Linda Morrison Combs1966
 Pierre Wyatt Dacons.....1985
 Cara Adrienne Elmore1979
 William Louis Flounoy, Jr. 1966
 Bernard Stokes Harvey1961

Thomas Edward Hatfield....1972
 Gaylin Wylie Huff1977
 Coleman Hunt1973
 David Brent Keim1987
 Betty Emmett Knox1954
 Judy Graves LeCroy1971
 James Norfleet McCrimmon 1975
 Franklin Craig Meadows1983
 Thomas Robert Mullinax ..1951
 Isaac McDonald Mwase.....1987
 Dawn Spainhour Neely.....1971
 1991
 Stephen Duane Proctor1977

Michael John Rousseaux1987
 Mary Noel Spanos, 19811988
 Judy Johnson Stamey1973
 Sophia Gomes Steibel1977
 Eva Whittington Self1984
 Patricia Ann St. Charles....1977
 James H. Taylor1966
 Lisa Carol Tucker.....1989
 Doris Lavonne Walters1959
 Yveta Barnes Washburn1988
 Wayne D. Wike1975



Recipients of Alumnus of the Year Awards

Year	Recipient	Graduation Year
1957	Arnold Wesley Kincaid	1926
1958	Leon H. Hollingsworth	1941
1959	Donnis Gold Yelton	1924
1960	Oliver Paul Hamrick	1911
1961	John R. Dover, Jr.	1911
1962	Dorothy Washburn Edwards	1935
1963	Ella McCurry Campbell.....	1911
1964	Mr. and Mrs. Zeb V. Moss	1950
1965	Hubert Conrad Dixon	1935
1966	Leary R. Harrill, Jr.	1918
1967	E. Eugene Poston	1943
1968	John E. Roberts	1949
1969	James Roy Roberson	1930
1970	Aileen Jones Gamble	1939
1971	Thomas Jefferson	McGraw, 1949
1972	Horace Greely Hammett	1921
1973	Bette Falls McGraw	1949
1973	Dorothy Jenkins Poston	1943
1974	John Purcell Carlton.....	1912
1975	Forrest William Hunt	1931
1976	Leon Julius Pinkston.....	1951
1977	Jack G. Creech	1955
1978	Helen Marie Stinson.....	1954
1979	Dan W. Moore, Jr.	1937
1980	Robert P. Long	1937
1981	Jack D. Mullinax	1932
1982	Joseph E. Cabaniss	1943
1983	H. Gene Washburn	1952

Year	Recipient	Graduation Year
1984	J. Lowery Austell	1924
1985	Bobby M. Pettyjohn	1952
1986	R. Bruce Bowers	1968
1987	Linda Morrison Combs	1966
1988	Betty Emmett Knox	1954
1989	Henry L. Smith, Jr.	1953
1990	Max Padgett	1950
1991	Gilmer W. Blackburn	1960
1992	Doris Lavonne Walters	1959
1993	Hughy Hartford Hollifield.....	1935
1994	Neils W. Brooks	1978
1996	Arnold Dewy Isaacs	1957

YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Year	Recipient
1991	E. Russell Anderson1976
1992	Jill Haney Coy1976
1993	Graylin Wylie Huff.....1977
1994	Randy Keith Kilby1979
1995	J. Douglas Armstrong1988
1996	Rebecca Hicks Walker,1985

Bulldog Of The Year Award

1967 - Charles G. Lampley
 1968 - G. Wayne DeHart
 1969 - Thomas B. Hamrick
 1970 - Dwight Kenneth Street
 1971 - W. J. "Bill" Weaver
 1972 - Robert B. Litton
 1973 - Gertrude B. Bridges
 1974 - H. Gene Washburn
 1975 - James L. Beason
 1976 - Franklin V. Beam

1979 - J. W. Abernethy, III
 1980 - Paris L. Yelton
 1981 - Clifford E. Hamrick
 1982 - Louise A. Short
 1983 - The Thomas C. Poston
 Family
 1984 - Arnold W. Phillips
 1985 - Danny E. Hawkins
 1986 - Russell T. Hord
 1987 - Daniel W. Moore, Jr.

1988 - Catherine S. Porter
 1989 - Roy B. Greene
 1990 - Robert W. Abrams
 1991 - Howard Hamrick
 1992 - Edwin C. Holbrook
 1993 - Duane Kline
 1994 - W. Thomas Bell
 1995 - William R. Parker
 1996 - Melvin and JoAnn Lutz

Trustees And Their Years Of Service

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

Adams, Charles E.	1986-89
Alexander, J. F.	1905, 1920-22
Alexander, C. Neal, Jr.	1990-93, 1996-99
Alexander, Ruby Moss	1993-1997
Allen, David L.	1956-59
Anderson, LaCount L. III.	1986-89
Austell, Dorothy B.	1978-81
Austell, S. H.	1932-40
Ayers, John F., Jr.	1973-76, 1978-81
Ayers, W. A.	1926-39, 1941-43
Bahakel, Cy N.	1975-78
Bailes, E. W.	1940-43
Bailey, Hoyt Q.	1990-91, 1992-95, 1997-2000
Baker, Carolyn.	1978-81
Baker, H. M.	1953-56
Baker, R. O.	1960-62, 1961-64
Barr, Mrs. V. Ward	1958-61
Barrett, W. C.	1922-29
Bates, Carl E.	1959-61
Baucom, Amon	1985-88
Beach, Clarence E.	1957-58
Beach, J. J.	1907-10, 1917-21, 1925-31
Beach, W. R.	1917-21
Beals, Roy	1952-55
Beam, Ellen B.	1990-93, 1994-97
Beam, H. Edwin	1977-80
Beam, Herman A.	1950-53, 1953-54
Bearden, W. Clyde	1976-79
Beason, Belton G.	1950-53
Beason, James L.	1968-71, 1973-76
Belk, Henderson	1971-74
Bell, Douglas	1984-87
Bentley, Ralph L.	1980-83, 1985-88 1991-94, 1996-99
Bethea, John L.	1987-90, 1993-96
Bettis, A. F.	1922-27
Biggers, Howard, Jr.	1972-75, 1977-80
Biggerstaff, W. P.	1939-41
Bissette, David G.	1987-90
Black, C. J.	1922-26, 1929-31
Blalock, Robert	1997-2000
Blalock, Tom	1941-44
Blankenship, Louise	1981-84
Blanton, George, Jr.	1983-86, 1988-91, 1993-96
Blanton, M. D.	1944-46
Bolejack, W. Garland	1995-96
Borders, E. C.	1904-1922

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

Boroughs, Gladys Brooks	1986-89
Bost, Lloyd C.	1963-66, 1968-71, 1973-76, 1978-81, 1987-90, 1992-95
Bouldin, Donald	1979-82
Bowers, B.A.	1929-32
Bowers, Bruce	1984-87
Bracey, Jack A.	1959-62
Bridges, Glee A.	1940-46
Bridges, H. Paul	1965-68, 1971-74, 1976-79
Bridges, J. C.	1905-07
Bridges, J. Herbert	1948-53
Bridges, Moody	1949-53
Brock, J. A.	1931-41
Brown, William	1974-77
Broyhill, James Edgar	1983-86
Broyhill, Paul	1953-56
Bumgardner, David	1945-46
Burgess, Forrest H.	1979-82, 1989-91
Burke, Udean	1990-93, 1995-98
Burris, J. Wayne	1968-71, 1972-75, 1977-80 1982-85
Byrd, Joseph K., Sr.	1983-86
Caldwell, Fred D.	1947-52, 1956-59
Calton, J. A.	1913-15
Cashwell, T. L., Sr.	1945-47
Caswell, Guy T.	1946-50
Causby, Thomas R.	1969-72, 1974-77, 1979-82, 1985-88, 1990-93, 1995-1998
Childress, R. N.	1929-31
Clayton, Mrs. A.B.	1951-54
Clements, C. Lennon	1975-78
Cline, Billy H.	1973-76
Collins, W. K.	1922-26
Colwell, W. Max	1986-89
Cooley, V. F.	1941-43
Cornwell, James F.	1956-59
Costner, J. W.	1932-40
Craig, H. Max, Sr.	1953-54
Craig, H. Max, Jr.	1963-66, 1968-71, 1973-76, 1978-81, 1983-84
Craig, R. F.	1922-32
Craven, Paul	1984-87
Crawford, Larry C.	1988-91
Croom, Jesse, Jr.	1978-81
Daves, Olma	1982-85
Davidson, George W.	1981-84
Davis, J. Toliver	1961-64, 1966-69, 1972-75

Appendix

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

DeHart, Wayne	1963-66, 1970-73, 1975-77
DeHart, Pauline.....	1977-80
Devenny, J. V.	1904-08
Dickson, Rush S.	1948-52
Digh, Marshall E.....	1971-74, 1976-79
Doggett, Mrs. C. Robert.....	1932-34
Dorato, Frank	1973-76
Dover, Charles I.	1951-54, 1964-67, 1969-72, 1974-77 Trustee Emeritus
Dover, John R., Jr.	1941-50, 1954-58, 1960-63
Duncan, Grady	1978-81, 1983-86, 1996-99
Easom, Horace.....	1941-43, 1944-46, 1959-62
Edwards, J.J.	1905-33
Elam, Carme	1904-22
Elliott, Dathia	1950-53
Elliott, George.....	1978-81
Elliott, William K.....	1989-92
Ellis, David	1990-93, Ex-officio Member
Epley, L. N.	1939-40
Eskridge, James L.	1952-55
Estes, T. W.	1966-68
Eubanks, William M., Jr.	1975-78
Falls, B. T., Sr.	1905-40
Falls, Ralph L.	1959-62
Fincannon, A. Lee, Sr.	1973-76
Fitts, Russell	1986-89, 1991-94
Fitz, Joseph D.....	1960-63, 1971-74, 1977-80
Flagler, Fred	1984-87
Ford, J. E.	1922-24
Forney, C. D., Sr.	1922-24
Francis, W. J.	1922-32
Frans, Mrs. L. P.	1971-75
Freeman, Z. Miller	1969-72
Gardner, James Webb(Decker)	1941-46
Gardner, O. Max	1941-47
Gardner, Mrs. O. Max (Fay Webb).....	1947-50, 1955-58 1960-63
Gardner, O. Max III	1979-82
Gardner, Ralph W.....	1940-41, 1951-54, 1967-70
Garrison, Arthur C.	1966-69, 1972-75
Gaskin, E. Reed	1968-71, 1973-76
Gaston, W. F.	1980-83
Gettys, S. C.	1935-38
Gibson, John	1967-70
Gilley, James	1970-73
Gilley, Joseph H., Jr.	1971-74, 1976-79
Glasgow, Robert.....	1979-82
Gold, George M.	1924-35
Graham, J. G.	1914-19
Graybeal, Kyle.....	1981-84

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

Green, M. M.....	1915-29
Green, P. R.....	1915-21
Greene, Donald E.	1974-77
Griffith, Brodie F.	1968-69
Grindstaff, Boyce	1968-71, 1973-76, 1989-92, 1994-1997
Groves, Earl T.	1966-69, 1980-83 1985-88, 1990-93
Hair, W. B.	1945-50, 1954-57
Hamby, Robert P.	1961-64
Hambright, G. F.	1909-15
Hames, J. C.	1939-47, 1961-64
Hames, Mrs. J. C.....	1970-73, 1977-80
Hammett, Horace G.	1947-50, 1954-55
Hammett, Ralph.....	1954
Hamrick, A. G.	1934-36
Hamrick, A. V.	1941-46
Hamrick, Clifford E., Sr.	1940-53, 1957-60, 1962-65
Hamrick, Clifford E., Jr.	1979-82, 1993-96
Hamrick, C. Rush, Sr.	1941-46
Hamrick, Earle A.	1941-50
Hamrick, Elijah B.	1904-46 Life Member
Hamrick, Felix E.	1955
Hamrick, J. H.	1905-10
Hamrick, J. M.....	1905-13
Hamrick, Lester O.	1941-48
Hamrick, L. S.	1904-20
Hamrick, S. H.	1905-15
Hamrick, T. G.	1905-11
Hamrick, T. P.	1915-20
Hardin, E. Thomas.....	1994-97
Hardy, Ann L.	1984-87
Harrell, Edward T.	1947-52
Harrill, A. S.	1905-06
Harrill, C. H.....	1950-54
Harrill, D. M.	1905-29
Harrill, G. B.....	1956-59, 1965-68
Harrill, H. D.....	1911-15
Harrill, L. R.	1971-74
Harrill, Z. D.	1906-08
Harris, J. Ollie.....	1956-59
Harris, Mary Arden	1987-90
Harris, Woodrow W.....	1946-53
Hartsell, W. H.	1931-32
Hawkins, G. S.	1913-21
Hawkins, G. V.	1934-37, 1939-46
Hawkins, P. C.	1925-29
Hawkins, Ronald	1981-84, 1986-89
Haynes, R. R.	1910-11

Appendix

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

Hearn, Norman W.....	1978-81
Heffner, Olin D.	1975-78
Helms, T. Ray	1964-67, 1969-72
Henderson, Charles Lorance	1981-84, 1986-87 1990-93, 1995-98
Hendrick, John H.	1993-96
Hendrick, Maurice	1941-43
Hendrix, T. R.	1960-63, 1964-67, 1969-72
Hendrix, Mrs. T. R.	1976-77
Hendrix, Wilburn T.	1957-60, 1962-65 1968-71
Hennessee, W. C.....	1962-65
Hicks, Charles	1983-86
Hicks, Walter L.	1929-50
Hildebrand, S. Bruce	1954-57
Hill, Thomas	1981-84
Hinson, Claude S.	1947-51, 1953-56, 1958-61 1963-66
Hodges, Barton W.....	1976-79
Hogan, Thomas E.	1986-89
Holder, Robert.....	1979-81
Holland, T. M.....	1905-29
Hollifield, Wyndolyn R.....	1992-95
Hord, D. F.	1921-40
Horne, Ray	1941-44
Hudson, E. V.	1931-32, 1945-46
Hudson, W. Hill, Sr.....	1937-47
Huggins, Hubert	1945-46
Huggins, Vance	1963, 1965-68
Hughes, Barbara Ann.....	1979-82
Hunnicut, J. A.	1931-38
Hunt, D. J.....	1921-25
Irvin, A. C.	1904-05, 1908-09
Irvin, C. J.....	1938-39
Irvin, J. Y.	1908-25
Isaacs, Jack B.	1991-94
Jacumin, Jimmy R.	1982-85
Jamison, Michael	1997-2000
Jenkins, C. A.	1911-12
Jenkins, L. S.....	1904-05
Jessup, L. L.	1931-34
Johnson, Allen C.	1987-90
Jolley, A. I.	1915-37
Jolley, R. N.....	1939-41
Jones, J. B.....	1926-28
Jones, J. W.	1936-37
Jones, Woodrow W.	1957-60, 1963-66, 1972-75
Keeter, Byron	1941-47
Keeter, D. J.....	1918-32
Keeter, H. S., Jr.	1996-99

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

Kellar, A. Grayson	1987-90, 1992-95
Kendrick, G. W.....	1904-05
Kendrick, Garrie L.	1966-69, 1970-73
Kendrick, N. B.	1904-32
Kerr, Leland.....	Ex-officio Member
Kincaid, Arnold W.	1950-56, 1957-60, 1962-65
Kincaid, Donald R.	1983-86
King, T. H.	1922-24
Kistler, Nancy	1984-87, 1993-96
Knowles, Thomas W., Jr.	1969-72, 1974-77
Knox, Betty Emmett	1985-88, 1991-94
Knox, Lattie	1934-35
Lamm, S. L.	1947-50
Lancaster, A. D.....	1921-25
Lancaster, Mac	1990-93
Lancaster, O. B.....	1938-39
Lattimore, Walter S.	1911-15
Lawrence, John Ed.	1956-59
Lawrence, Tom S.....	1956-59
Lee, Mrs. Norman B.	1940-44, 1949-53
Lewis, R. S.	1924-32
Little, Maylon E.	1982-85
Logan, G. H.	1904-18
Long, T. T.....	1936-46
Lovelace, A. C.	1932-34
Lovelace, T. B.....	1905-13
Lovelace, Mrs. T. C.....	1941-46
Lowe, M. Leonard	1959-61, 1964-67
Lutz, J. F.....	1935-44
Lutz, Jack	1987-90
Lutz, Ray Webb	1985-88
Maddrey, Charles A.	1934-36
Mangum, William W., Jr.	1987-90
Marks, W. Frank	1981-84
Martin, Santford, Sr.	1950-54
Martin, W. A.	1905-20
Matheney, C. C.	1925-32, 1944-46
Matheny, J. A.	1938-39
Mauney, Joe	1979-82, Ex-officio Member
Maynor, James E.	1988-91
McBrayer, J. E.....	1905-06
McBrayer, John Z.	1949-52, 1957-60
McCall, Eleanor Y.....	1988-91, 1993-96
McCluney, J. L.	1944-46
McCulloch, John T.	1982-85, 1988-91, 1993-96
McDevitt, Wayne	1989-92
McEntire, W. R.....	1932-34
McKinney, A. M.	1932-39
McLain, I. A.....	1961-64
McMahon, Samuel H., Jr.	1984-87, 1989-92

Appendix

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

McMurry, A. W.....	1936-50
McMurry, Mrs. S. A.	1941-44
Medford, Joseph Lee	1980-83
Miller, Herbert P.....	1964-67
Miller, J. R.	1915-17
Minnix, J. Michael.....	1989-90
Montague, Harvey L.	1994-97
Moore, Dan W., Jr.	1992-95, 1997-2000
Moore, J. F.	1905-54 Life Member
Moore, Joe T.....	1957-60, 1962-65
Moore, John B.	1955-58
Moore, O. D.	1943-44
Moore, W. Donald	1958-61
Morris, Bettie S.	1991-94
Moss, Aaron	1973-76
Moss, Zeb V.	1956-59
Mull, A. T.	1904-05
Mull, O. M.	1941-46
Mynatt, Dillard	1969-72
Nanney, C. P.	1965-68, 1970-73, 1975-78
Nichols, J. L., Jr.	1962-65, 1967-70, 1973-76
Norris, J. Donald	1989-92, 1994-97
Owens, J. E.....	1946-50
Owens, M. O., Jr.....	1954-57, 1959-62, 1964-67
Padgett, James	1950-53
Padgett, Rush	1929-31
Padgett, Mrs. T. R.....	1941-48
Padgett, Wilson Woodrow	1961-64
Page, Charles D.	1983-85, 1992-95
Parker, A. Leroy.....	1960-63
Parker, H. Bernard	1980-83, 1985-88 1991-94, Ex-officio Member
Parris, T. H.....	1936-39
Parsons, Joe	1941-43
Payseur, C. W.	1911-12
Pennell, Timothy	1982-85, 1988-91
Pettit, W. E.	1944-50
Pharr, Keener	1957-59
Phillips, Virginia	1997-2000
Philson, Thomas E.	1983-86, 1989-92, 1995-98
Pinnix, L. C.	1946-47
Pittman, Ganell	1997-2000
Planer, Geoffrey.....	1984-87
Plaster, Hubert S.....	1955-58
Plybon, Charles T.	1934-37
Plyler, Richard E.....	1993-94
Potter, James S.	1947-52
Price, Herbert W.....	1992-95
Price, L. C.	1939-43
Price, R. E.	1941-48, 1951-55, 1958-61

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

Price, U. R.	1936-37
Proctor, Lee.....	1980-83
Pruett, G. B.	1909-34
Putnam, D. F.....	1904-06, 1922-25
Putnam, J. D.....	1905-21
Putnam, J. L.	1921-32
Putnam, James E.	1990-93, 1995-98
Quinn, J. H.	1906-29
Rabon, William Bruce	1991-94
Rawley, D. A., Sr.	1962-65, 1967-70
Ray, James	1945-46
Redman, William J.	1985-88
Reece, R. P.	1954-57, 1959-62
Riddle, W. F.	1924-25
Ridings, C. O.	1937-38
Rimmer, W. W.	1929-31
Robbins, James E.	1995-98
Robbins, Thomas Max	1991-94
Roberts, Forest C., Sr.	1966-69, 1971-74, 1976-79
Roberts, Guy H.....	1945-50, 1953-56
Roberts, John E.....	1995-98
Roberts, Ralph E.....	1959-62
Robinson, Dr. J. Roy	1965-68, 1970-73
Rollins, Howard.....	1955-56
Rollins, J. U.	1929-48, 1950-56
Rouse, William S.	1994-97
Royster, H. C.	1929-32
Royster, D. W., Sr.	1955-58
Ruppe, James H.	1988-91
Sanderson, Raymond I.	1974-77
Sargeant, A. G.	1941-43
Scruggs, Robert B.	1966-69
Seagraves, Dorothy S.	1992-95
Seagraves, James A.	1996-99
Self, Mrs. Hattie Peeler(Mrs. L. L.)	1950-53 1955-58, 1960-63
Shepherd, Wade R.	1995-98
Shore, Mrs. Ernie G.	1958-61
Short, Wade H.	1966-69
Silver, Colleen L.....	1990-93
Sims, A. H.	1905-07
Sloan, John W.	1991
Smith, Arthur	1971-74, 1976-79
Smith, Donald E.	1980-83
Smith, Hobart C.....	1967-70, 1972-75, 1977-78 1982-85, 1987-90, 1992-95, 1997-2000
Smith, Yates	1944-46
Snyder, Keith Spurling.....	1979-82
Spangler, A. D.	1925-29
Spangler, C. D.	1953-56

Appendix

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

Spangler, Carl M., Jr.	1994-97
Spangler, Eloise Y.	1996-99
Spangler, Mal A.	1936-47
Spangler, Ralph R.	1980-83, 1991-94, 1996-99
Spangler, R. Patrick	1966-69, 1971-74, 1976-79
	1980-83 Trustee Emeritus
Sperling, Mrs. E. G.	1939-44
Stamey, Miss Charline	1961-64, 1970-73, 1975-78
Stamey, T. A.	1920-29
Stembridge, H. Hansel, Jr.	1952-55
Stinson, Helen M.	1980-83, 1989-92, 1994-97
Stokes, Henry B.	1967-70
Stoudemire, A. T.	1928-31
Stout, Carson	1952-55
Stowe, D. P.	1926-32
Strickland, B. M.	1939-46
Stroup, A. U.	1922-31
Stroup, M. A.	1920-21
Stroup, Mrs. Rush (Mae Cline) ..	1934-39, 1941-46
	1948-53, 1959-62, 1964-67 1970-73, 1975-78
	Trustee Emerita
Summey, T. S.	1945-46
Suttle, J. L., Jr.	1955-58, 1963-66
Suttle, John W.	1911-55 Life Member
Tarlton, W. V.	1943-46
Tarlton, J. J.	1944-47
Tate, W. T.	1919-26
Taylor, J. Ned	1945-46
Teague, J. Bruce	1975-78
Tew, C. T.	1911-14
Toms, W. A.	1938-41
Trainham, Emory	1963-66
Troutman, Raiford	1974-77
Valentine, Jewel	1982-85
Vann, J. G.	1948-51
Vipperman, Dr. J. L.	1922-24
Wacaster, Mrs. John	1932-44
Walker, F. Guy, Jr.	1981-84, 1986-89
Walker, Z. R.	1931-32
Wall, Dr. Zeno	1928-39, 1941-46
Wallace, William A.	1972-75
Walters, W. L.	1924-32
Warlick, Harold	1984-87

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

Warren, Donald L.	1985-88
Warren, Thomas L.	1975-78, 1982-85,
	1988-91, 1996-99
Washburn, A. V., Sr.	1927-28, 1954-57
Washburn, George	1941-46
Washburn, H. Gene	1983-86, 1988-91, 1993-96
Washburn, Joe C.	1934-46
Washburn, Willard Winslow	1904-33
Washburn, W. Wyan	1946-49, 1951-54
	1956-59 Ex-officio Member, Trustee Emeritus
Watts, B. Dale	1996-99
Weathers, Lee B.	1951-54
Weathers, R. L.	1905-11
Webb, E. Y.	1936-45, 1951-55
Webb, Selma	1941-50
Weekley, H. Gordon, Jr.	1954-57
Weeks, Willard K.	1958-61
West, Fred D.	1972-75, 1977-80
Whitaker, D. C.	1938-39
Whitaker, E. G.	1941-46
White, E. P.	1936-37
White, Harold	1955-58
Whitley, J. W.	1926-32
Williams, Richard A.	1960-63
Williams, William J.	1993-96
Williams, W. W.	1925-26
Wilson, C. B.	1921-29
Wilson, Grady	1969-72, 1974-77
Wilson, J. M.	1904-08
Wilson, S. A.	1957-60
Wilson, Tom C.	1971-72
Withrow, A. T.	1959-61, 1963-66
	1968-71, 1973-76
Withrow, J. P. D.	1909-11
Withrow, Marilyn	1997-2000
Woodward, Joe Lee	1940-46
Yelton, Mrs. Paris L. (Donnis Gold)	1946-48
	1950-54
Young, Carlos	1953-57
Young, Margaret	1941-50

Board Of Trustee Officers

Year	Chairman	Vice Chairman
1951	J. R. Dover, Jr.	Moody Bridges
1952	Claude Hinson	Charles I. Dover
1953	Charles I. Dover	Mae C. Stroup
1954	H. H. Stembridge, Jr.	Arnold W. Kincaid
1955	H. H. Stembridge, Jr.	Arnold W. Kincaid
1956	H. H. Stembridge, Jr.	Arnold W. Kincaid
1957	John E. Lawrence	W. Wyan Washburn
1958	M. O. Owens, Jr.	Tom S. Lawrence
1959	Tom S. Lawrence	Arnold W. Kincaid
1960	R. E. Price.....	M. O. Owens, Jr.
1961	Mae C. Stroup.....	Horace Easom
1962	Mae C. Stroup.....	M. O. Owens, Jr.
1963	J. Toliver Davis.....	Clifford E. Hamrick
1964	J. Toliver Davis.....	Clifford E. Hamrick
1965	Lloyd C. Bost	Mae C. Stroup
1966	Lloyd C. Bost	Mae C. Stroup
1967	R. Patrick Spangler.....	Mae C. Stroup
1968	R. Patrick Spangler.....	Mae C. Stroup
1969	R. Patrick Spangler	Lloyd C. Bost
1970	H. Max Craig, Jr.....	J. Toliver Davis
1971	Lloyd C. Bost	R. Patrick Spangler
1972	R. Patrick Spangler.....	Mae C. Stroup
1973	R. Patrick Spangler.....	Mae C. Stroup

Year	Chairman	Vice Chairman
1974	R. Patrick Spangler	H. Paul Bridges
1975	J. L. Nichols, Jr.	Mae C. Stroup
1976	J. L. Nichols, Jr.	Mae C. Stroup
1977	R. Patrick Spangler	Howard R. Biggers, Jr.
1978	R. Patrick Spangler	Hobart C. Smith
1979	Hobart C. Smith	J. Wayne Burris
1980	Hobart C. Smith	Lloyd C. Bost
1981	Lloyd C. Bost	Bernard H. Parker
1982	Bernard H. Parker	Hobart C. Smith
1983	Bernard H. Parker	Hobart C. Smith
1984	Hobart C. Smith.....	Charles D. Page
1985	Hobart C. Smith	Samuel H. McMahon, Jr.
1986	Lloyd C. Bost.....	Samuel H. McMahon, Jr.
1987	Lloyd C. Bost	Samuel H. McMahon, Jr.
1988	Lloyd C. Bost	Hobart C. Smith
1989	Lloyd C. Bost	Hobart C. Smith
1990	Hobart C. Smith	Lloyd C. Bost
1991	John T. McCulloch	George Blanton, Jr.
1992	Lloyd C. Bost	Hobart C. Smith
1993	Lloyd C. Bost	Hobart C. Smith
1994	Hobart C. Smith	Lloyd C. Bost
1995	Hobart C. Smith	Lloyd C. Bost
1996	H. Gene Washburn	E. Thomas Hardin
1997	E. Thomas Hardin	Thomas E. Philson

Alumni Presidents

Dan T. Camp	1968-69
D. Boyd Cannon	1947-48
Jack G. Creech	1973-76, 1982-83, 1995-97
T. W. Estees	1961-62
Robert R. Forney	1954-55
Mrs. J. Warren Gamble.....	1949-50
Ernest Gardner	1934
J. Morrison Gilbert	1967-68
Clifford Hamrick	1946-47
Lucille Causby Hamrick	1991-93
O. P. Hamrick	1950-60
Edley B. Hicks	1948-49
Arnold W. Kincaid.....	1951-52
Jack D. King	1990-91
Rowell Lane	1955-56
Mrs. Grady Lovelace	1945-46
Dan W. Moore, Jr.	1965-66, 1980-81

Robert Morgan	1953-54
Zeb V. Moss	1957-58
Mabel Padgett	1956-57
Max Padgett	1976-77
Wilson Padgett	1962-63
Bobby Pettyjohn.....	1986-87, 1993-95
Julius Pinkston	1979-80, 1985-86
A. A. Powell	1960-61
Minnie Bolling Rice.....	1969-70
John E. Roberts	1963-64, 1970-73
Earl Webb "Bud" Spangler	1966-67
G. Forest Teague	1964-65
David R. Troutman	1991-92
S. Guy Walker	1958-59
Wayne D. Wike	1988-90
Donnis G. Yelton	1952-53

Citizenship Awards

Beginning with the graduating class of 1937, the faculty has selected the most outstanding male and female graduates. Selection is based on scholarship, leadership and character. For many years the outstanding male graduate award was associated with the name of Professor J. D. Huggins, the first principal of the Boiling Springs High School and first dean of Boiling Springs Junior College. In the 1990's, Dr. John E. Roberts, the Huggins Award winner of 1949 and current trustee of the University, permanently endowed the award. The outstanding female award is associated with the name of Etta L. Curtis who served as Lady Principal of the high school and later as Dean of Women.

1937	Dan Wesley Moore, Jr.	1961	Jerry Richard Walker	1980	Mark McMasters
1938	Franklin D. Smith		Joyce Carolyn Gantt		Greta Setzer
1939	Glenn Robert Bridges	1962	James Edwin McSwain	1981	Bradley Scott Riddle
1940	James S. Rotan		Judith Amelia Mintz		Rachel Elizabeth Schlafer
1941	Cecil Propst	1963	Richard Verlon Ledford	1982	William Wilson Rash
1942	R. W. Abrams		Sarah Amanda Warlick		Nola Renee Boughmann
1943	E. Eugene Poston	1964	David Bruce Washburn	1983	Franklin Craig Meadows
	Eunice Hoyle		Peggy Janet Cooper		Mary Joan Proctor
1944	Clyde E. McAlister	1965	Charles Ray Yarborough, Jr.	1984	Jerome Frederick Creach
1945	Sam M. Green, Jr.		Dianne Washburn		Mami Lynne McNeely
1946	Carl Edgar Jolley	1966	Robert Stephen Poston	1985	Sidney Wilkey
1947	William Brian Beam		Patricia Ann Jarman		Carol Whitmire
	Dorothy Spangler	1967	Philip B. Storm	1986	Christopher Sherman Roberts
1948	John Worth Long	1968	Richard P. Smith, Jr.		Mary Elizabeth Willoughby
	Margaret McKinney	1969	David Vernon Webb	1987	Michael Rousseaux
1949	John E. Roberts		Gloria Jean Poston		Teresa Lynn Cannon
1950	James Edward Cooke	1970	William Burdette Harrill, III	1988	James Douglas Armstrong
1951	Alfred Smith Homesley		Janet Faye Costner		Cara Lynn Barker
1952	Joseph McWayne Cole	1971	Jerry C. Ruppe	1989	Tracy Craig Jessup
1953	Amos Glen Henson and		Janet Mae Whisnant		Carol King Dawson
	Paul Henry Thomas	1972	William Jefferson Cranford	1990	Phillip David Archer
	Mildred Laney		Sue Holder Rash		Anna Christine Vaughn
1954	Frank Mason Hudspeth	1973	Steven Glenn Riddle	1991	Robert Stephen Harrelson
	Virginia Huggins		Deborah Leigh Gaskill		Michele Sheree Philemon
1955	Truman Garland Phillips	1974	Jerry Calvin Burleson	1992	Brian Patrick Miller
	Cynthia Covington		Donna Kay Abrams		Dawn Elaine Camp
1956	Harold Lloyd Long	1975	William Shellem Barkley, Jr.	1993	Martin Lynn White
	Mildred Peterson		Mary Jo Byrd		Andrea Starr Sells
1957	Douglas David Hamrick	1976	Stephen McFadden Lewis	1994	Anthony Todd Estes
	Faye Branch		Sarah Louise Ormand		Frances Elizabeth Mabry
1958	Douglas Woodrow Wilson	1977	Robert Conrad Pettyjohn	1995	Clayton Ryan King
	Grace Ollis		Sophia Regina Gomes		Sabrina Michelle Barnes
1959	Marvin Ray Walters	1978	Kenneth Lamar Lewis	1996	Edwin E. Odugba
	Sonja Hedrick		Kimberly Patrice Sain		Heather Nicole Robertson
1960	W. Worth Bridges, Jr.	1979	David Warren Cribb		
	Mary Josephine Roper		Bettye Diggs		

Student-Athlete All-Americans

Senior College and University

1971	George Adams	1st Team Men's Basketball NAIA
1971	Quinton Terry Florence	1st Team Golf, NAIA
1972	George Adams	1st Team Men's Basketball NAIA
1974	John Michael Mattson ..	1st Team Golf, NAIA
1974	John Edward Drew	1st Team Men's Basketball, NAIA
1974	Richard Charles Grissom ..	1st Team Football NAIA
1975	Robert K. Bolick ..	2nd Team Football, NAIA
1975	James Robert Blanks	2nd Team Men's Basketball, NAIA
1975	William Taylor "Zim" Zimmerman ..	1st Team Golf, NAIA
1976	Michael Preston Cox	2nd Team Football NAIA
1976	Gary Linn Robinson	1st Team Baseball, NAIA
1976	James Hal Franklin	1st Team Golf, NAIA
1976	William Taylor "Zim" Zimmerman ..	1st Team Golf, NAIA
1976	David William Bormann	3rd Team Men's Basketball, NAIA
1977	Johnny Ray Walker	1st Team Football, NAIA
1977	David William Bormann	1st Team Men's Basketball, NAIA
1977	James Hal Franklin	1st Team Golf, NAIA
1977	Stephen Robert Sherman	1st Team Golf NAIA
1978	Gregory Lewis Young	3rd Team Men's Basketball, NAIA
1978	Robert Jeffrey Carter	1st Team Football, NAIA
1978	Wayne Leo Myers	1st Team Golf, NAIA
1979	Stephen Robert Sherman	1st Team Golf NAIA
1980	Ralph Warthen	2nd Team Football, NAIA
1982	Thomas Watson "Chip" Stuart, Jr.	1st Team Football, NAIA
1982	Carlisle Woodson Koonts	2nd Team Football, NAIA
1982	H. Cameron Brooks	2nd Team Football, NAIA
1983	Eddie Lee Wilkins	1st Team Men's Basketball, NAIA
1984	Howard Cameron Brooks	2nd Team Football, NAIA
1984	Eddie Lee Wilkins	1st Team Men's Basketball, NAIA
1985	Eric Jason Brewton	1st Team Football, NAIA
1985	Benjamin Franklin Davis	3rd Team Men's Basketball, NAIA
1987	Jeffrey Walker Parker	1st Team Football NAIA 1st Team Little American
1988	Stanley Easterling	3rd Team Men's Basketball, NAIA
1988	Eric Jason Brewton	2nd Team Football, NAIA
1988	Bradley T. Smith	Men's Basketball Academic, NAIA
1989	Stanley Easterling	2nd Team Men's Basketball, NAIA
1989	Darrell Morease Middleton	2nd Team Football, NAIA
1989	Thomas Earl Mack	1st Team Football Don Hansen
1989	Mark Preston Kimel	1st Team Football Don Hansen
1990	Dennis M. Puckerin	3rd Team Men's Soccer, NAIA
1990	Tricia Ann Unterreiner ..	Women's Basketball Academic, NAIA
1992	John Anthony Todaro	Men's Soccer Academic, NAIA
1992	Michael Anthony Walker	Men's Soccer Academic, NAIA
1992	Andre Kwasnik	1st Team Football, NAIA
1992	Gabriel Nickolas Wilkins ..	1st Team Football NAIA
1992	Dunsey La'Taze Harper	1st Team Football NAIA
1992	James David Harbison	1st Team Football, NAIA

Appendix

1992 Rodney Yul Robinson1st Team Football
NAIA 1st Team Football, KODAK
1st Team Football AP Little All-American
1992 John Edward Craven.....1st Team Football
Don Hansen All-American and
NAIA Player of the Year
1992 Raymond Anthony Jennings2nd Team
Football, NAIA
1992 Terry L. McGowen 2nd Team Football, NAIA
1993 Gabriel Nickolas Wilkins ..1st Team Football
KODAK, AP Little All-American
American Football Coaches Association
1993 Michael Anthony WalkerMen's Soccer
Academic, National Soccer Coaches
Association of America

1994 Edwin Egbegbemi OdugbaMen's Soccer
Academic, National Soccer Coaches Association
of America
1994 Terry Kent Wright 3rd Team Baseball, NCAA
1995 Edwin Egbegbemi OdugbaMen's Soccer
Academic, National Soccer Coaches
Association of America
1995 Jerome Lee YawMen's Soccer
Academic, National Soccer Coaches
Association of America, GTE Academic All-American
All-American, National Soccer Coaches
Association of America
1996 Jerome Lee YawMen's Soccer Academic
National Soccer Coaches Association of
America GTE Academic All American,
All-American National Soccer Coaches
Association of America
COSIDA-NCAA, All American



Athletic Hall Of Fame Inductees

1991 INDUCTEES

NAME	SPORT PLAYED OR POSITION	DATES PARTICIPATED
Zeno Wall, Jr.	Football, Men's Basketball	Early 1930s
Norman Harris	Coached Football, Baseball, Basketball, and Athletic Director	1949-70
E. Eugene Poston	President	1943-61
Edwin C. Holbrook	Coached Men's Basketball	1964-78
George Adams	Men's Basketball	Early 1970s
Gary L. Robinson	Baseball	1970s
William T. (Zim) Zimmerman, II	Golf	1970s
Thomas (Chip) W. Stuart, Jr.	Football	1980s
Dina Smith McClure	Women's Basketball	1980s

1992 INDUCTEES

Eddie Lee Wilkins	Men's Basketball	1981-84
George Mauney	Football, Men's Basketball, Baseball	1932-34
Jerry Bryson	Coached Baseball	1966-80
Bobby Ray Bush	Football, Basketball, Baseball, Coached Football	1950-53

1993 INDUCTEES

Garland H. Allen	Coached Golf	1962-66
Dennis R. Childress	Men's Basketball	1964-66
John (Red) Jolley	Football	Late 1920s
Bobby Lail	Baseball	1968-72

1994 INDUCTEES

Jeffrey S. Carter	Football	1978-82
Dave Bormann	Men's Basketball	1970s
Roger L. McSwain	Baseball	Late 1960s, Early 1970s
J. Ken Sanford	Football	1961-62

1995 INDUCTEES

James G. Garrison	Football, Men's Basketball, Coached Football	1955-58
Artis Gilmore	Men's Basketball	1967-69
Frank L. Taylor	Football	1973-78
Carolyn Dewberry Green	Women's Basketball	1978-82

1996 INDUCTEES

E. Drew Bridges	Men's Basketball	1965-67
Joseph I. Brown	Baseball	1968-71
Richard C. Grissom	Football	1972-73

Board of Advisors Established 1963

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

Abernethy, Jr., J. W.	1975-78
Abernethy, Lige A.	1983-86
Abernethy, Terry C.	1989-92, 1993-97
Alexander, Charles	1963, 1969, 1970, 1973-74
Alexander, J. T.	1971-73
Alexander, R. Lane	1994-98
Alford, Jr., L. E.	1981-85, 1987-90, 1991-95
Allen, Bob	1972-73
Allen, Larry	1989-92
Allen, William F.	1971-73
Allred, Hoyle	1963
Anthony, Jr., Oliver S.	1983-86
Apple, James B.	1981-84, 1986-89
Arey, Jr., Robert J.	1981-84, 1985-88, 1989-94, 1994-98
Austell, J. Lowery	1963, 1981-84
Bailey, A. A.	1963
Bailey, Hoyt	1970, 1972-73
Baines, Richard	1980-83
Banks, Sr., David S.	1980-83, 1985-88, 1995-99
Barker, John T.	1992-96, 1997-2000
Barkley, Sr. William S.	1974-75, 1991-95, 1995-99
Barnhill, John C.	1983-86
Barry, Lee	1977-80
Bates, Derek Lane	1993-95
Beam, Jr., Dennis A.	1994-98
Beam, Franklin V.	1990-94
Beason, M. Bill	1974-75, 1987-90
Bell, John	1963
Bell, W. Thomas	1981-84, 1988-91, 1992-96
Benfield, Knolan	1963
Bennett, George	1963
Bentley, Ralph L.	1972-74
Beveridge, Hugh	1975-78
Black, A. Melton	1975-78
Blackley, Fred B.	1992-96
Blackwell, Dill	1988-91
Bland, Frances	1974-75
Blanton, Jr., George	1963, 1970, 1972-73 1975-78, 1979-82
Blanton, Phillip L.	1995-99
Boggs, Hattie B.	1979-82
Bouser, Stephen	1981-84
Bower, Roger D.	1983-86
Bracey, Jack A.	1963

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

Brackett, Jim C.	1975-78
Brady, Saranan M.	1993-97
Brandon, Carl	1974-75
Brashier, Walt	1977-80
Breeden, Jr., R. T.	1975-78, 1980-83
Bridges, F. Donald	1994-98
Bridges, H. Paul	1963
Bridges, Sr., J. Kent	1991-95
Bridges, Jesse E.	1963
Bridges, Mrs. Maurice	1974
Briggs, Douglas M.	1983-86
Brown, G. L.	1963
Brown, John Earl	1963, 1971-73
Brown, Newton	1970
Brown, Walter W.	1971-73
Bumgardner, A. S.	1963
Burgin, Katherine R.	1989-92, 1993-97
Burke, E. Udean	1989-90
Burns, Robert O.	1983-86
Burton, Cecil M.	1984-87, 1989-92, 1994-98
Burton, William L.	1988-91, 1993-97
Byers, James E.	1985-86
Cabaniss, Sr., Joe E.	1970, 1972-74, 1980-83 1992-96, 1997-2000
Cabaniss, Jr., Joe E.	1981-84, 1986-89
Callaway, Richard	1972-73
Camp, Joe H.	1983-86
Camp, Muriel	1984-87
Camp, Tom	1972-73
Campbell, Y. Walter	1994-98
Cantrell, Jr., John H.	1975-78, 1980-83, 1985-88
Cantwell, Robert A.	1982-84
Carothers, Jr., E. W.	1984-87
Carroll, Sr., Barry G.	1988-91, 1996-2000
Carroll, Carolyn C.	1991-95, 1995-99
Carter, Jr., Ralph F.	1989-92
Cash, Johnny	1975-78
Casten, Michael	1992-94
Cathey, Joe H.	1994-98
Causby, David	1988-91, 1992-96, 1997-2000
Causby, Harold	1972-73, 1979-82
Champion, F. O.	1963, 1971-73
Chapman, Clyde	1963
Cheek, Donald G.	1974
Cheery, James P.	1975-78

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Chitty, III, James F.	1996-2000
Clark, Clarence	1963
Clary, Debbie A.	1996-2000
Clements, G. Lennon.....	1972-73
Clinard, Jr., Frank	1992-96, 1997-2000
Coffee, Charles.....	1963
Coleman, Calvin E.	1994-98
Cook, Mark W.	1986-89
Cooley, Helen	1983-86
Coon, Jr., Hoke	1963
Corn, George.....	1971-73
Costner, Dwight A.	1975-78
Cowan, Ivy.....	1963
Cowan, James	1989-92, 1993-94
Craver, Adelaide A.	1996-2000
Craver, Richard	1983-86
Crawley, James E.....	1993-94
Crawley, Julia Crisp	1980-83, 1985-88
Creech, Jack	1977-80
Crews, William J.....	1982-85, 1995-99
Crutchfield, Charles H.	1980-83
Davis, Robert T.....	1985-88
Deck, Paul.....	1990-94
Dedmon, Sr., Donald G.....	1995-99
DePriest, Jr., Joseph S.	1987-90
DeHart, Ray	1972-73
DeHart, Pauline	1974
Dickens, Sr., A. J.....	1963, 1971-73
Dover, III, John R.....	1963, 1968
Duncan, W. A.	1963
Dunkley, J. R.	1982-85
Dyer, Vollie	1980-83
Earley, Charles F.	1983-86, 1992-96
Easom, Horace	1963
Edgerton, John A.	1979-82, 1984-87
Eeds, L. Paul	1993-97
Elliott, Harold	1963
Elliott, William K.	1977-80
Ellis, W. David.....	1984-87
Ellis, W. P.	1963, 1989-92
Ellison, Paul S.	1977-80
Eubanks, William M.	1972-73
Everett, Joe	1963
Falls, Ralph L.	1963
Fanning, Walter L.....	1985-88
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Fincannon, Faye	1991-95
Fitz, J. D.....	1969-70, 1983-86
Flynn, Woodrow	1963
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Ford, Edwin	1963
Ford, R. Leigh	1989-92
Forney, Robert R.	1969, 1977-80
Fountain, Jr., Ben E.....	1980-83, 1985-88
Fraley, John L. (Buck)	1968, 1970, 1972-73
Fran, Mrs. L. P.	1970
Frazier, Wray	1981-84
Frost, Michael J.	1993-97
Gainey, Jr., William W.	1974, 1995-99
Gaither, Ann Heafner	1982-85
Gardner, Jr., James W.	1980-83, 1985-88
Gardner, John M.....	1979-82
Gardner, Jr., Mrs. O. Max	1963
Gardner, Sylvia	1981-86
Gardner, Victoria H.	1993-97
Garner, Lloyd	1963
Gaton, W. F.	1979-80
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Ginn, C. Philip	1989-92
Glenn, Albert L.	1992-1996
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Gold, Robert M.	1988-91
Graham, Thomas M.	1985-88
Green, Michael W.....	1994-98
Greene, Bob H.	1989-92
Greene, Don F.	1991-95, 1995-99
Greene, Donald E.	1963, 1972-73, 1979-82
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Griffin, Bobby	1980-83
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Groves, Earl T.	1963
Hall, R. Claxton	1982-85
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Harward, Ronald	1982-85
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Hedrick, Larry S.	1981-84
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Hendrick, Cline M.	1972-73
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Holbrook, Edwin C.	1992-93
Holland, John P.	1989-92, 1993-97
Holland, Roger	1995-99
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Hooker, Jr., Richard	1987-1990, 1991-95,
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Hord, Dwight S.	1963
Horn, B. B.	1980-83
Horn, Billy	1972-73
Hoskins, James D.	1994-98
Hoyle, Frank G.	1971-73
Hoyle, Katherine H.	1996-2000
Huber, Thomas	1983-86
Hudson, L. Morris	1989-92
Hudson, Mark Alan	1989-92
Hudson, Sue M.	1978-81
Hunscher, David G.	1975-78
Hunt, Forrest W.	1984-87
Hunt, Jack J.	1963, 1971, 1972-74, 1980-83
Hyche, Jerry	1974
Izzi, Sr., L. B.	1993-97
Izzi, Jr., Tony	1982-85, 1987-90
Jackson, Staley T.	1991-95
Jacumin, Jr., Emile	1984-87
James, Robert E.	1963
Johnson, Allen	1974
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Johnson, Livingston	1981-84
Johnson, William R.	1983-86
Jones, Nancy	1983-86
Jones, Robert A.	1972-73, 1979-80
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Keeter, Jr., H. S.	1984-87, 1991-95
Keeter, Sr., Hoyt.....	1963
Kegler, Clarence C.	1993-97
Keeler, Grayson	1971-73
Kelly, Richard G.	1985-88
Kendrick, Bobby J.	1992-96
Killian, Stephen E.	1983-84
Kiser, W. J.	1972-73
Kline, Martha Jessup	1985-88, 1989-94
	1994-95, 1996-99
Kluttz, Jr., Ernest L.	1963
Koone, Jackson D.	1980-83
Koonts, J. Calvin	1981-84, 1987-90
Lambert, E. Coy.....	1983-86
Laney, Caroline C.	1995-99
Langley, H. Allen	1990-94, 1994-98
Lawrence, D. C.	1972
Ledbetter, M. D.	1963
Ledford, Horace B.	1992-96
LeGrand, Jr., R. T.	1963, 1978-81, 1983-86
LeGrand, H. Eugene.....	1975-78
LeGrand, Stuart H.	1992-96
Lewis, III, Willard L.	1989-92
Liebhart, Jerald	1972-73
Litton, Robert A.	1975-78
Litton, Robert B.	1980-83, 1985-88
Long, W. N.	1963
Lonnes, Wolfgang	1981-84
Lovelace, Don	1981-84
Lovelace, Stan	1970
Lowe, Leonard	1963, 1971-73
Lowndes, III, William	1981-84
Lutz, Jack	1972-73, 1981-84
Lutz, Ray Webb	1981-84
Lutz, Robert	1963
Mabry, Jr., C. Jack	1980-83
Mabry, Jr., William F.	1994-98
Mack, Jr., Charles E.	1991-95
Major, John	1980-83
Marsch, Heath B.	1975-78
Martin, James I.	1995-99
Martin, Sr., T. Wilbur	1987-90, 1991-95
Massey, Pamela F.	1993-97
Masters, W. H.	1983-86

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Mattox, James O.	1971
Mauney, Charles	1972-73, 1977-80
Mauney, Helen	1977-80
Mayfield, H. Randolph.....	1983-86, 1991-95
Mayo, Frank S.	1989-92, 1993-97
Mayse, R. Scott	1983-86
McBrayer, John Z.....	1963, 1971-73
McCluney, J. L.	1963
McGraw, A. H.	1971-73
McCulloch, John	1980-83
McDonald, Johnny D.	1984-87, 1989-92
McDougle, Leon J.	1980-83
McElroy, Alan D.....	1991-94
McManus, U. A.	1963
McMillan, Jr., Marion L.	1978-81, 1983-86
McMurray, Mrs. C. M.....	1974
McMurray, Dorothy G.....	1980-83, 1985-88
McNeely, William	1973-74
McNeill, Jeffrey P.	1988-91
McPherson, Holt	1963
McSwain, Ruby C.	1982-85
McWatters, Karen W.....	1995-99
Meeker, Jr., Frank G.	1983-86
Merrell, Bill	1977-80
Miller, Herb	1963
Miller, Joe A.	1972-73
Mills, Fred G.	1984-87
Mills, Janet Crawley.....	1989-1992
Mints, Carolyn A.	1994-98
Mitchiner, W. A.	1963
Moore, Jr., Daniel W.....	1990-93
Moore, David	1974
Moore, Tom	1963
Moore, W. Stanley	1975-78
Morgan, James W.	1994-98
Morrison, Robert J.	1972-73, 1979-82
Moseley, Charles R.	1986-89
Moss, Aaron	1981-84
Moss, John Henry	1982-85, 1992-96
Nanney, C. P.	1963
Nanney, Jr., Louis W.	1988-89
Neal, Richard	1971-73
Neal, William.....	1971
Neel, Robert J.....	1993-94
Neisler, G. Scott	1995-99
Neisler, Jr., Joseph A.....	1982-85
Newton, Todd	1994-98
Norris, David L.....	1975-78
Norris, Donald.....	1981-84, 1986-89
Norris, Keith M.	1988-91

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Nye, Stephen G.	1996-2000
Oliver, Glenn Edward	1991-95
Ollis, David L.	1996-2000
Orrell, Jr., B. S.	1971-73
Owens, Jr., M. O.	1963
Owensby, Earl	1972-73
Paksoy, Jr., Ali.....	1978-81, 1983-86
Paksoy, Peggy M.	1990-93, 1994-98
Palmer, Jr., Jack	1981-84
Pardue, Howard M.	1984-87
Parker, William R.	1991-95
Patterson, III, Charles W.....	1977-80
Patterson, Robert S.....	1983-86
Pearce, William E.	1974
Pearson, Douglas L.	1984-87
Pearson, Jr., Plato	1978-81
Pennell, Timothy	1980-81
Petty, James B.	1982-85
Petty, Roger T.....	1988-91
Pettyjohn, Bobby M.	1989-91
Pharr, James L.	1963
Pharr, W. J.	1963, 1970, 1975-78, 1980-81
Phelps, Bailey.....	1963
Phillips, Arnold W.	1980-83, 1985-88
Philpot, Billy.....	1983-86
Piercy, Sr., Brooks E.	1993-97
Pitt, R. Graham	1989-92
Pittman, James A.	1994-98
Plaster, Martha	1996-2000
Plowden, Jr., William R.....	1993-97
Porter, Paul B.	1972-73, 1978-81, 1983-86, 1991-95
Powell, Lear	1979-82
Presson, Johnny E.	1982-85, 1990-94, 1994-98
Price, Andy S.	1995-99
Price, E. W.	1963
Price, Kay Archer	1992-96
Price, R. E.....	1963
Ramsey, Jack	1963, 1971
Ramsey, T. A.	1972-73
Ramsey, Van	1975-78
Raper, Samuel A.	1992-96, 1997-2000
Rauch, Marshall	1970, 1972-73, 1975-78
Redman, William W.	1977-80
Reece, R. P.....	1963, 1971
Reel, O. B.	1963
Reiley, Charles E.	1981-84, 1986-89, 1990-94
Reynolds, Charles H.	1963
Rice, Minna B.	1970, 1972-73, 1979-82 1990-94, 1994-95

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Robbins, Thomas Max	1990-93
Roberts, Jr., Charles P.	1972-73
Roberts, David M.	1987-90
Roberts, Forest C.	1963
Roberts, John E.	1986-89, 1990-94
Roberts, Ralph E.	1963
Roberts, Thad C.	1994-98
Robinson, Jr., G. Lin	1990-94, 1994-98
Robinson, Roy	1963
Rodgers, Patricia A.	1994-98
Rogers, Charles L.	1988-91, 1992-96
Rogers, E. Harvey	1989-92
Rogers, E. Pat	1971-73, 1981-84, 1986-89
Rogers, Rita.....	1990-93
Rollins, Howard A.	1963, 1985-88
Rowan, David K.	1985-88, 1990-94
Royster, Sr., D. W.	1971
Sadler, Edward.....	1995-99
Sanders, Joseph M.....	1972-73
Sanders, Vernon	1975-78
Sarazen, Nancy	1979-82
Schenck, Mike.....	1975-78
Schenck, Newlin P.	1974
Schweppe, Sr., John V.	1963, 1969-70 1972-74, 1979-81
Schweppe, Ruth R.	1984-87, 1989-92, 1993-97
Seal, Paul	1983-86
Shannon, W. Bruce	1981-84, 1986-89 1990-94, 1995-99
Sherwood, William P.....	1992-96
Short, Dale A.	1992-96, 1997-2000
Sigmon, Les C.....	1988-91, 1992-96, 1997-2000
Simmons, James.....	1972-73
Simpkins, G. Gary	1991-95, 1995-99
Simpson, Steve M.....	1985-88
Smith, Arthur	1970
Smith, Jr., Hobart C.	1982-85, 1996-2000
Smith, John P.	1974, 1979-82
Smith, Lloyd B.	1984-87, 1989-92
Smith, Thomas E.	1992-93
Smither, W. H.	1963
Smykal, Keith	1975-78
Snipes, Vernon L.	1981-84, 1986-89
Solomon, Betty Smith	1987-90
Spangler, C. M.	1963
Spangler, Earl W.	1970, 1972-73
Spangler, N. Lynn	1991-95
Spangler, Jr., R. Patrick	1993-97
Spieth, Emil E.	1991-94
Spivey, Charles J.....	1995-99

NAMEYEARS OF SERVICE

Stallings, W. J.	1963
Stewart, Jr., Carl J.	1971-73, 1983-86
Stewart, Robert C.	1972-73
Stokes, Donald L.	1987-90, 1991-95
Stone, Mark	1975-78
Stowe, Daniel J.	1970, 1972-73, 1975-78
Strain, Sarah	1977-80
Stroup, Donald E.	1989-92
Stroup, Mae Cline	1963
Stutts, Clyde L.	1963, 1971-73, 1983-86
Stutts, Rufus E.	1988-91, 1993-95
Sullivan, John	1980-83
Summer, Eva B.	1982-85
Summey, Raymond E.....	1982-85
Suttle, Linton	1983-86
Suttle, J. Vance	1993-97
Sweeting, Randall H.	1995-99
Swinson, Gene R.	1982-83
Taylor, Anne	1980-81
Tanner, Jr., Kenneth S.	1963
Tanner, III, S. B.....	1963
Teague, J. Bruce.....	1972-73
Teddy, David R.	1995-99
Terry, Jr., John R.....	1981-84
Tesenair, Boyce E.	1995-99
Thomas, L. Ray	1994-98
Thompson, R. William.....	1971-73
Thornburg, L. Steve.....	1993-97
Timberlake, Jr., G. J.	1992-95
Toney, Judith H.	1990-93
Trammell, Dennis	1983-86
Treharne, Carol	1988-89
Troutman, Raiford	1972-73, 1979-81, 1983-86
Vincent, G. Jack.....	1963, 1972-73
Walker, Aubrey A.....	1988-91
Wall, Zeno	1963
Wallace, William	1969
Walters, R. Keith	1996-2000
Warren, Donald	1971-74
Warren, T. L.	1972-73
Washburn H. Gene	1981-84
Washburn, W. Wyan	1963
Washburn, J. Kent	1988-91
Watson, T. Max	1963, 1972-73
Weathers, Henry Lee	1963, 1971-73, 1981-84 1987-90, 1991-95
Webb, J. Wonnice	1975-78
Webb, Stanely D.	1974
Webb, William Y.....	1986-89
West, Jack	1992-95

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Westmoreland, Pratt	1983-86
Whisnant, G. Dean	1990-94, 1994-98
White, Jr., Charles H.	1995-99
White, David W.	1990-94
Whitener, Basil	1969
Williams, Billy.....	1991-93
Williams, Lloyd C.....	1984-87
Williams, Richard T.	1990-93
Williamson, James L.	1986-89
Wilson, Hackett	1969, 1971-73
Wilson, Sam	1963
Wilson, Tom C.	1970
Winn, R. Dale	1991-95
Wiseman, Jr., Charles V.....	1972-73, 1979-82
Withrow, Alan T.	1970, 1972-73
Wray, Jr., Stough A.....	1988-91
Yelton, Emily.....	1988-91
Yelton, Paris.....	1963, 1971-73, 1977-80
Yelton, Donnis G.....	1963
Yelton, Robert W.	1992-96, 1997-2000
Yergin, Howard	1988-91

Young, Carlos	1963
Young, Dorothy A.....	1989-92
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Young, III, H. Fields.....	1990-94, 1994-98
Young, Kay B.	1995-99
Young, Viola Cowan.....	1980-81
Younger, Kenneth	1983-86

HONORARY MEMBERS

Porter, Paul B.
Weathers, Sr., Henry Lee

LIFE MEMBERS

Kline, Martha Jessup
Porter, Paul B.
Rice, Minna Bolling
Weathers, Henry Lee



Diplomas And Degrees Awarded

High School Graduates

	Diplomas	Total
1910-1934	715	715

Junior College Graduates

	Associate	Total
1930-1956	1,415	1,415
1956-1957	72	72
1957-1958	93	93
1958-1959	64	64
1959-1960	92	92
1960-1961	94	94
1961-1962	95	95
1962-1963	108	108
1963-1964	81	81
1964-1965	85	85
1965-1966	119	119
1966-1967	126	126
1967-1968	141	141
1968-1969	166	166
1969-1970	115	115

Senior College Graduates

	Associate	Bachelors	Masters	Total
1970-1971	37	315		352
1971-1972	24	325		349
1972-1973	25	326		351
1973-1974	38	307		345
1974-1975	43	323		366
1975-1976	49	309		358
1976-1977	39	315		354
1977-1978	36	258		294
1978-1979	44	236		280
1979-1980	25	251		276
1980-1981	22	262		284
1981-1982	29	248	57	334
1982-1983	27	332	8	367
1983-1984	24	412	21	457
1984-1985	29	353	50	432
1985-1986	21	403	40	464
1986-1987	17	373	108	498
1987-1988	15	366	113	494
1988-1989	10	347	153	510
1989-1990	21	394	79	494
1990-1991	17	444	53	514
1991-1992	35	431	77	543

University Graduates

	Associate	Bachelors	Masters	Total
1992-1993	50	444	14	508
1993-1994	48	499	49	596
1994-1995	47	419	75	541
1995-1996	32	420	66	518

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The author has drawn from many primary sources in developing this history of Gardner-Webb University. Included in these sources are the minutes of the Kings Mountain and Sandy Run Associations, minutes of the Trustees and articles from newspapers and other publications, minutes of Faculty meetings, several Gardner-Webb publications including *The Pilot*, the school newspaper, and *The Web*, a publication for alumni and friends. Sources are noted within the text of the history.

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About the Author

Professor M. Lansford Jolley is a native of Boiling Springs, North Carolina. He is the son of the late M.A. and Dovie Hopper Jolley. He and his family have experienced a long and pleasant relationship with Gardner-Webb. His mother was a 1914 graduate of Boiling Springs High School, the forerunner of Gardner-Webb College and Gardner-Webb University.

When Professor Jolley entered Gardner-Webb Junior College as a student in the fall of 1944, there were 234 students, mostly female. After returning from a fourteen-month stint in the Navy following his freshmen year, he returned as a student in 1946 and graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in 1947. He met his future wife, Cothenia Jones, at Gardner-Webb in 1946. They were married in 1950. They have one daughter, Lana Jolley Henkel, who is a band director at Burns Middle School and Burns High School in Cleveland County.

After graduating from Wake Forest with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1949, Professor Jolley graduated from George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tennessee, with a Master of Arts degree in 1954 and the Education Specialist (Ed. S.) degree in 1960. Additional graduate work was done at Peabody College and Florida State University.

After graduating from Wake Forest, Professor Jolley taught eighth grade at Ellenboro School, Ellenboro, North Carolina. He joined the Gardner-Webb faculty in 1957 and was chair of the Department of Social Sciences for thirty-three years while teaching history and sociology. While a college student, he had been active in drama and as a faculty member played the leading male role in "South Pacific" in 1968. In addition to his service on various committees at the college, he served as president of the North Carolina Baptist Social Science Teachers. Mr. Jolley assisted in beginning the Criminal Justice program at Gardner-Webb and taught in many of the GOAL (Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners) classes at different centers.

Upon his retirement in 1992, the members of the Department of Social Sciences honored him with a dinner and set up an endowed scholarship to be

awarded to a deserving student each year. Dr. White also asked him to serve as Historian-in-Residence and, along with the request from the Trustees, asked him to write a history of the institution from its beginning as a high school in 1907 through 1997 to celebrate the 90th anniversary.

Mr. Jolley has been active in the Boiling Springs Baptist Church and has participated in numerous community and civic activities. At the church, he continues to teach an adult men's Sunday School class and serves on various committees. Since 1949, he has served terms as a member of the Board of Deacons, also serving at times as chairman. Other church related activities include adult choir, senior adult choir, church representative to the Executive Board of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association, chairman and member of the Personnel Committee and an Interim Pastor's Search Committee. He also assisted his mother Dovie Hopper Jolley in writing the first history of the Boiling Springs Baptist Church.

Civic and community activities have been a part of his services. He has been a member of the Social Service Board of Cleveland County and an officer of the Cleveland County Historical Association. In 1985-1986, the Cleveland County United Way did a Community Needs Assessment Study with Mr. Jolley serving as chairman for this study. In Boiling Springs, Mr. Jolley has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Crawley Memorial Hospital and as a charter member and president of the Boiling Springs Lions Club.

His hobbies include keeping up with the news, traveling, remembering and telling stories and jokes, being the keeper of all the yard work, as well as being an avid reader.

Other publications include the historical sketch of the University and several biographical sketches in the *Faculty Emeriti* publication in 1995. Other writing includes the audiovisual skit and presentation for the 75th anniversary celebration of the town of Boiling Spring in 1986, as well as serving as chairman of the celebration committee.

J. Mack Nipon
Swiss Bay:

Sir & Mrs. M. Christopher White

May, 1997



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